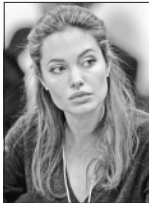


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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

L.A. hospital accreditation: The only public hospital in South Los Angeles has lost its accreditation, meaning it also could lose its ability to train doctors and care for emergency psychiatric and low-income patients.

Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center in South Los Angeles lost the approval Tuesday after the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations denied a final appeal by Los Angeles County to halt the withdrawal.

NYC subway fire: Service was expected to be mostly restored Wednesday to two busy New York subway lines knocked out by a fire last month, transit officials said. Officials initially estimated repairs would take up to five years.

Full non-peak service on the A and C lines was to be restored Wednesday morning and 70 percent of service was expected during the rush hours, New York City Transit president Lawrence Reuter said.

Rather replacement: Dan Rather probably will be replaced with veteran "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer on an interim basis when Rather steps down next month as "CBS Evening News" anchor.

Schieffer's likely selection was first reported by USA Today and confirmed Wednesday by a CBS News executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He would be a bridge toward a new format for the evening news, mirrored in last place in the ratings behind NBC and ABC.

World

Iran nuclear program: The top official of the world's largest grouping of Muslim nations on Wednesday welcomed the recent elections in Iraq, but said the Islamic world does not need another "intervention" in Iran.

Ekmeladdin Ihsanoglu, secretary-general of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference, said in Islamabad, Pakistan, the grouping favored an amicable solution of the dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

Tsunami relief: Bureaucratic bungling has blocked food, medicine and other necessities from reaching a stunning 70 percent of the 1 million Sri Lankans left destitute by the Asian tsunami disaster, a government official said Wednesday, as hungry and homeless survivors protested the lack of help.



NOVIA HARRINGTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Blue Ridge port visit: Sailors aboard USS Blue Ridge stand watch on the main deck as the ship arrives in Hong Kong on Tuesday for a regularly scheduled port visit. The Seventh Fleet command ship Blue Ridge's approximately 1,000 crew and staff members will have a chance to sight-see, shop, enjoy recreational opportunities and take part in activities including community service projects with their hosts.

In a troubling admission, Thilak Ranavirajah, chief of Sri Lanka's presidential task force to coordinate relief, said bureaucratic incompetence and ignorance of tsunami survivors had considerably slowed aid delivery, estimating that relief had reached only 30 percent of those who need it.

Sept. 11 trial: Sept. 11 suicide hijacker Mohamed Atta appeared "psychologically disturbed" and acted "distant" when encountered on the street, a former neighbor testified Wednesday in Hamburg, Germany, during the retrial of a Moroccan accused of providing logistical support for the attacks.

Indra Andrea Braun, 34, lived next door to Atta in a Hamburg suburb and said she saw defendant Mounir el Motassadeq visiting him. Atta also was visited by suicide plots Ziad Jarrah and Marwan al-Shehhi and others suspected of involvement in the Sept. 11 plot, she said.

Africa officials: Rwandan, Ugandan and Congolese officials will meet U.S. counterparts Wednesday to review efforts to stabilize the Great Lakes region and normalize relations after more than a decade of fighting, officials in Kigali, Rwanda, said.

Cabinet ministers and senior security officials from the three African nations will meet at the U.S. State Department in Wash-

ington to review the security situation three months after they signed a peace agreement in Rwanda, said Gregoire Karambizi, secretary general in Rwanda's ministry of foreign affairs.

Germany-Israel relations: Germany's president told Israeli lawmakers in Jerusalem on Wednesday that he bows his head "in shame and humility" before the victims of the Nazi Holocaust, and he promised that Germany would wage a determined battle against anti-Semitism.

The president, Horst Koehler, also denounced Palestinian suicide bombings as indefensible acts of terror and said Germany would always stand by Israel and its people.

Business

Federal interest rates: The Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised interest rates for the sixth time since last June as policy-makers continued their efforts to make sure a strengthening economy does not trigger unwanted inflation.

The Fed announced that it was raising its target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, by a quarter-point to 2.5 percent. Before the Fed began tightening credit last June, the funds rate had been at a 46-year low of 1 percent.

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Military policy as remains resting in dispute

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Eleanor Dachtler feels like she's lost her son twice.

The first time when Lance Cpl. Nicholas H. Anderson was killed during an insurgent attack in Iraq, and again when the military sided with her ex-husband's plan to bury their son in his home state.

After learning that a little-known military policy favors the older parent in such disputes, Dachtler watched helplessly as her son was to rest 266 miles away in Ventura, Calif.

"I couldn't believe that this was happening," Dachtler said. "I can't go see him every week, talk

Mom fights rule that gave custody of Marine's body to older parent

to him, I want to go visit his grave and take him home."

Officials who deal with casualties say disagreements over a soldier's burial are not uncommon, particularly if there has been a divorce.

"I'm sure if you did some digging, you would find other instances of the situation we had with Lance Cpl. Anderson," said Marine Corps Capt. William Gularducci, who assisted Dachtler after her son's death. "That's why this policy is in place."

Military officials said most disputes are resolved among family

members. But experts acknowledge the possibility exists for more such conflicts as soldiers increasingly leave behind complicated family situations.

"There is no question that these sorts of issues will become more common as divorces grow more numerous," said Loren Thompson, a military analyst with the Lexington Institute, a defense think tank in Alexandria, Va.

When Dachtler was told her son had been killed she assumed his body was being sent to Las Vegas, where Anderson had spent most of his childhood and had graduated from high school.

But Marine Corps officials told Dachtler, 47, that his body was being sent to his father in Southern California, where Anderson had spent summers and holidays. The Marine Corps determined Dachtler's ex-husband, Albert Anderson, 58, was the primary next of kin authorized to handle the disposition of remains. The law says that without a spouse or child, the responsibility falls to the oldest surviving parent unless sole custody was granted by a court.

Dachtler, who had primary custody of Anderson growing up, was outraged.

"You can't determine something like this by age," she said. "You have to look at where they lived, where they spent their time. This was Nick's home." Dachtler has been collecting signatures and working with elected officials to either change the law or compel soldiers to designate someone to make burial decisions for them.

"I don't want to see anyone go through this," Dachtler said, adding that times have changed since the law was enacted. "Back then, you can understand. Families were together. But this is now. It doesn't work that way."

Okinawa Navy hospital gives Yokota literal shot in the arm

950 doses sent to help alleviate flu vaccine shortage

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP LESTER, Okinawa — More than 900 people on mainland Japan now will be able to receive flu shots, thanks to some help from the Navy on Okinawa.

U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa sent 950 doses of the vaccine to Yokota Air Base's 374th Medical Group after reading a news report about a short supply there, according to Cmdr. Stan Jossell, director of Community Health at the hospital.

"Amanda [Woodhead, hospital public affairs] read an article in Stars and Stripes and brought it to us," Jossell said. "We read it and thought that we could help."

The article, published Jan. 15, stated that while the Okinawa hospital had opened its immunization program to all, the Yokota clinic had only about 760 doses — enough for high-risk groups and mission-essential active-duty servicemembers only. Col. Steven Shaffer, the 374th's director of organizational compliance, stated in the article. "We don't have enough to vaccinate everyone... we have not received any more vaccine," Shaffer said in the article.

After reading of the Yokota shortage, "We reached their public health officer and confirmed that there was a shortage," said Navy Lt. Bob Comeau, the Naval Hospital's Preventive Medicine division officer. "We told them we wanted to help. They huddled up, took a little time, and came up with a need of 950 doses."

That amount of vaccine was packed according to specifications — in coolers with frozen gel-packs — and shipped to Yokota on Tuesday via commercial carrier. The package was scheduled to arrive by close of business Wednesday, Jossell said.

Even after sending almost 1,000 doses to Yokota, Jossell said, the Okinawa hospital has enough to vaccinate those locally who still need it — and even is helping out another base.

After contacting the Navy Medical Logistics Command, the hospital learned an Army unit from Fort Bragg, N.C., was in dire need of the vaccine. The unit is deploying to Iraq soon.

"We offered them enough doses to vaccinate a good portion of the troops deploying," said Jossell, who cited operational security concerns in declining to disclose the number of doses sent to Fort Bragg. "It's going to significantly enhance their readiness," he said.

Logistics still are being worked out, Jossell said, but the unit will receive the shipment before it deploys.

The Naval Hospital is urging its active-duty personnel and beneficiaries who haven't yet received a shot to get one. Those still needing to be vaccinated can bring their primary care clinic or the hospital's immunization clinic. Call the immunization clinic at DSN 643-7441 for more information.

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@pstripes.osd.mil



AMANDA WOODHEAD/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Preventive Medicine technicians at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa prepare 950 doses of flu vaccine for shipment to Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Tuesday. After learning that Yokota was running low on the shots, the hospital contributed some of its supply.

C-130 mishap

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Japan Air Self-Defense Force officials are investigating why a JASDF C-130 aircraft ran off the taxiway at Misawa Air Base on Monday.

The plane left the taxiway on the west side of the flight line after landing with personnel and cargo on board, according to Maj. Noryuki Waga, a JASDF 3rd Air Wing spokesman based at Misawa. No injuries or damage was reported, Note said.

JASDF crews were able to get the plane back on the airstrip. Note said the plane was kept at the base for an inspection.

Assigned to the 1st Tactical Airlift Group at Komaki Air Base in Aichi Prefecture, the C-130 was expected to be returned to Komaki as early as Wednesday if no problems are found with the aircraft, Note said.

6.2 quake in Guam

A magnitude-6.2 earthquake shook Guam on Wednesday but produced no immediate reports of injuries or major structural damage.

The quake sent residents scurrying out of buildings around 12:30 p.m., according to news reports.

The earthquake's epicenter was 35 miles west of Rota and 40 miles north of Hagatna, according to the U.S. Geological Survey Web site.

Rota Mayor Benjamin Mangiona said he had received no reports of injuries as of Wednesday afternoon, according to local reports.

U.S. Naval Forces Marianas officials were not immediately available for comment.

From staff reports



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes
Firefighters wearing chemical protective suits respond to a call from the mail distribution center Wednesday at Camp Zama, Japan.

Mysterious powder in mail prompts cordoning of Misawa postal facility

JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — Emergency responders at Camp Zama closed off part of the base Wednesday after postal workers found a package leaking a suspicious substance, officials said.

The U.S. Army Garrison Japan Fire Department, aided by soldier volunteers from the decontamination team, cordoned off the area and sequestered 11 postal workers inside the post distribution office until the substance was identified. By Wednesday evening, the substance had not been publicly identified.

Emergency responders tested the substance on site to verify that it wasn't dangerous, said incident commander Staff Sgt. He said Rau, operations sergeant for the provost marshal's office.

The scare started when powder leaked from a package sent to a member of the base community. Postal workers called in the incident about 10 a.m.

The building was cordoned off while members of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Explosives team set up decontamination areas.

The incident occurred in one of the main intersections on post just

before lunchtime.

The scare turned into an opportunity training exercise for the fire department and decontamination teams.

"You never know when you go in there if it's real," said Fire Chief Julie Thixton. "Sure we're apprehensive because it's an unknown, but training kicks in [and] allowed them to do the right thing. Any incidence is a good training opportunity."

No one was injured in the incident, and the post office reopened in the afternoon.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstripes.osd.mil

O seeks to renew anthrax shots

Vaccinations would be on voluntary basis

By MARC KAUFMAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has taken a major step toward reviving its controversial program of giving anthrax vaccine to servicemen, invoking emergency provisions of the Project BioShield Act that allow use of unapproved drugs and vaccines.

The Department of Defense said use of the vaccine will be voluntary for now, in contrast to the mandatory program that was blocked by a federal judge in October on the grounds that the vaccine was never properly cleared for use by the Food and Drug Administration.

The special authorization follows determinations by the Defense Department and former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson that a formal anthrax emergency exists for troops stationed in some nations abroad.

"The Department's current intelligence community assessments establish that there is a heightened risk for U.S. military forces of attack with anthrax," a DOD official said. He said the assessment applies to Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea in particular.

The emergency measure marks a dramatic turn in the Defense Department's long-running efforts to establish and maintain a mandatory vaccination program to protect against inhaled anthrax. Six former or current soldiers sued the department in 2003 over the program, and U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled last fall that the vaccinations were illegal and permanently enjoined their use.

In an order posted online Monday, however, acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford said that after conferring with the National Institutes of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, he had authorized the use of the vaccine under the BioShield Act.

The order set several conditions — that soldiers be educated about the vaccine and given the opportunity to refuse — but did not present any other obstacles to renewing the program.

Crawford wrote that the "known and potential benefits of the [vaccine] outweigh the known and potential risks," and that there is no adequate substitute for it.

A DOD official said Tuesday the issue will be revisited in Sullivan's courtroom before the vaccination program resumes. The process, he said, "could take some time."



Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department is moving toward reviving anthrax vaccinations for troops on a voluntary basis, citing emergency provisions of the Project BioShield Act.

That assessment was reinforced Tuesday by a lawyer for the six soldiers, who said he would go to court to oppose any effort to quickly revive the program. John Michels said the injunction remains in force despite the emergency authorization and despite the department's new willingness to accept a voluntary vaccination program.

Michels also argued that the emergency provisions of the BioShield Act were being misused. "The emergency here is that the

department lost the case in court, and invoking an emergency on that basis is a terrible precedent," he said.

Anthrax is a deadly infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Early symptoms may resemble a common cold, but after several days the symptoms can progress to severe breathing problems and shock. Inhalation anthrax usually is fatal; a cutaneous form that affects the skin is less lethal.

A month after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, letters tainted with anthrax bacteria infected people in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Florida and Washington. The still unsolved attacks killed five people, sickened 17 and put about 10,000 on antibiotics.

Michels said he was pleased by the department's change of position making the program voluntary, because that had been a central goal of the lawsuit. "But we're concerned that this may be a half-step that will later lead to a resumption of mandatory vaccinations," he said.

Asked if the Pentagon would like to return to a mandatory program, the spokesman left the possibility open. He said a major consideration in accepting a voluntary program was that the emergency authorization is good for only six months unless the FDA extends it.

Mecha: Is this the soldier of the future?

By WARD SANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

Cars slow down as they pass his parent's place. Kids come running, too, when they see Carlos Owens. Renaissance revivalist. Soldier. Ironworker. Inventor. Dreamer. Dr. Frankenstein.

"Hey mister," the kids ask. "Are you building a giant robot?" The private first class uses some hydraulics training he learned in the Army as a heavy equipment mechanic, but mostly loads of imagination and gumption, to build an 18-foot "mecha" in the snows of his Wasilla, Alaska, back yard.

For those unversed in the world of Japanese anime, a mecha is a hulking robot with a human pilot inside. Owens soon plans to fire up his machine for walk testing. The 27-year-old believes his machine could fight wars, fight fires, or at the very least — take on old Volkswagens for cheering crowds.

"Found for pound, it's the most powerful exoskeleton on the planet," Owens says.

OK, laugh it up. But even the Pentagon wants robotic soldiers. The concept isn't entirely new. In the late '60s, General Electric designed a machine that would allow sailors on aircraft carriers to lift 1,500 pounds for loading bombs. Only one of machine's arms worked, though, and it never saw sea duty.

Still today, from Wasilla to Washington, D.C., the dream is alive.

"If you're piloting one of these things, it'll emulate your movements on an 18-foot scale," Owens says of his creation. "If you move your arm, it'll move its arm. If you raise your leg, it'll raise its leg. If you stomp a car, it'll stomp a car."

Owens runs a Web site, www.neo-gentronix.com, and promises he'll



JIM LAVERAKS/Anchorage Daily News

Carlos Owens, Jr., a 27-year-old iron worker who is on the Army's inactive reserves, is building an 18-foot robot that he believes could be used on the battlefield.

post a video of his baby taking its first steps. Owens started with scraps in 2003 and now has a full exoskeleton. He plans to debut it at a speedway this spring. But beyond car crushing — already the bread-and-butter of a 40-footer called Robosaurus — Owens sees real work for his machine. The prototype will fire flames and spikes, but one designed for the military could fire nastier munitions for urban combat.

He also sees mechas as super smokejumpers.

"If you send a squad of these guys, you could just romp right through a forest fire, and put that sucker out from the inside. You could put on a hydraulic chainsaw attachment."

An Army of ... what?

Small-town dreamers and scientists agree that the future soldier runs on batteries.

The two sides are not, however, always pals.

Owens' project has cost \$15,000 so far. He heckles the government's Exoskeletons for Human Augmentation Project, which has spent \$50 million on a venture called the University of California, Berkeley. That plan of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency aims to give soldiers leg braces to march longer distances carrying heavy loads. It's called the Berkeley Lower Extremities Exoskeleton, or BLEEX.

Owens, who is in the inactive reserves, claims BLEEX costs too much money for too little muscle. "If I had \$50 million, I could do something a lot better than some overrated servo legs," he says.

The folks at DARPA know of Owens, too. "We've gotten a few calls about it," says John Mann, the scientist in charge of exoskeletons there. He forwarded questions to DARPA public affairs.

Spokeswoman Jan Walker says the battlefield in Alaska and the military's project are "like apples and oranges." The DARPA legs are supposed to function more with finesse and fluidity rather than crush and burn.

"It's not something that's big. It's something that's soldier-sized," Walker says. "By the time they get to the approach march," they won't be tired from the approach march.

According to Program Executive Officer Soldier, the Fort Belvoir, Va., command developing and fielding gear for the Army, today's push is due to a draft proposal on warriors of the future. A section of that Ground Soldier Capabilities Development Document

calls for troops to "improve physical work performance" from an initial 50 percent to an eventual 200 percent.

"The Army is on a path to accelerate the development of the state-of-the-art exoskeleton technology to meet the soldier's requirements and provide this capability to the field," says Ross Guckert, director of systems integration at PEO Soldier, in an e-mail.

After a quick look at Owens' site, Guckert says he doesn't believe the mecha is ready to enlist.

"I must say that his machine is years behind current exoskeleton developments, particularly in the areas of human-machine interface to control software, reduced power supply, safety, stability, agility, size and weight," Guckert writes.

"There would be no use for his current system on the battlefield," he says.

But Owens swears his frugal Frankenstein will see victory.

"It's just a prototype, he says, and future mechas could protect the wearer from chemical and biological attack. Mechas would move smoothly, like people. Some could operate underwater. Some could go into space.

Owens believes his mecha is to "Robotech" what mobile phones was to "Star Trek."

"A lot of science fiction dictates what's coming out next. Everybody said, hey, where's my communicator? Now we have cell phones."

"I believe science fiction ties directly into reality through creativity."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sanderson@mail.stripsides.osd.mil

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Lawmakers: Too much heaped on Army

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Members of the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday expressed serious concerns about Army readiness and the reliance on reservists and guardsmen in combat operations.

"The Army — and by that I mean active, Guard and Reserve — remains too small and improperly structured to perform all the nation is asking it to do," New York Republican Rep. John McHugh, chairman of the military personnel subcommittee, told Army leaders testifying before Congress.

"The pace at which we are employing the Guard and Reserve is not sustainable for the long term. And there appears to be an

over-reliance on rotation measures ... to get from one [combat] rotation to another rather than a willingness to adopt a longer term strategy."

Army leaders insisted they have the numbers and skills needed for continued deployments overseas, but admitted it will be "painful" for some soldiers while the Army adapts to the war on terror.

"We basically had the Army that was set for a full war and not individual conflicts," said Gen. Richard Cody, vice chief of staff for the Army. "Until we can get the Army fully mobilized ... we are going to have stress on the force."

Cody said soldiers have learned to adapt to numerous new jobs while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of them tasks they

were not necessarily trained to perform. Guardsmen and reservists have also provided vital mission support.

Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, testified that he is confident Guardsmen aren't being overused in their support role, but "are significantly stretched."

Members of Congress were less confident in that assessment, saying too often guardsmen and reservists are being used as last-minute specialty replacements, which can hurt unit cohesion.

"Frankly I think we're putting enormous strain on all our reserve components," said Rep. John Kline, R-Minn. "The strain is getting very heavy from the continued pressure on the Guard, their families and their employers."

Cody said he expects training changes to alleviate some of that pressure, though that could take several years. For now, Army officials are pleased with recent improvements in recruiting for active and reserve personnel, which had been lagging last year.

They attributed that to the recent doubling of re-enlistment bonuses available to most troops, and to funding released last year to employ more recruits.

McHugh said that, despite congressional budget, and another 10,000 are expected to be included in the 2006 budget released next week.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@starsandstripes.com

Purported al-Qaida site vows to avenge deaths

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Al-Qaida will attack U.S. prisons in Iraq to take revenge for a riot in which four detainees were killed, an Internet statement purportedly from the terror group said Wednesday.

Monday's shooting of four detainees and wounding of another six prisoners at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq will "not go unpunished," said a statement in the name of Al-Qaida in Iraq that was posted on an Islamic Web site.

The statement's authenticity could not be verified.

"We'll punish you, God willing. We'll respond decisively to your crimes," the statement said. "We say to our brothers in the prisons of the crusaders and the oppressors: Be patient, victory from God is coming soon."

The U.S. military in Iraq has said the riot at Camp Bucca internment center near Umm Qasr broke out after a routine search for contraband. The detainees threw rocks

and fashioned weapons from materials in their compound.

"After about 45 minutes of escalating danger, lethal force was used to quell the violence," the U.S. military said. The riot is being investigated.

Later, the al-Qaida group issued another Internet threat, this time in video form and against the governor of Nineveh, Osama Youssef Kashmoula, and the local Nineveh rural station.

Three masked, armed men appeared on

the video, with one clad in an explosives vest reading from a statement.

"We've had enough ... you have fought God and His Prophet ... and fought the mujahideen," the man said. "We swear ... that we are coming to slaughter you with swords, you and your entourage, for you are the people of apostasy and atheism."

Kashmoula escaped unharmed from a July assassination attempt after insurgents tossed hand grenades and fired machine guns at his convoy.

Sunni leaders: Vote illegitimate

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interim prime minister declared Wednesday that the success of the national elections had dealt a major blow to the insurgents — who have not carried out a major attack since the balloting — and predicted they will be defeated within months.

But a major Sunni clerical group declared that the Sunday elections "lack legitimacy" because many Sunni Arabs did not

take part and that the new government would have no mandate to guide the nation's future.

That suggested problems remain in reconciling with the Sunni Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of Iraq's 26 million people but form the core of the insurgency.

Nevertheless, both Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and his major Shiite Muslim rivals reached out Wednesday to the Sunnis, promising them a major role in drafting the new constitution even though

many of them shunned the ballot — out of either fear of rebel attacks or opposition to the electoral process.

"Definitely the Sunni Muslims will take part in the government and will have a role in the drafting of constitution," Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, head of the main Shiite political faction, said.

Allawi, a secular Shiite backed by the Americans, told Iraq television that the elections, which drew large turnouts except in Sunni insurgent strongholds, constituted a "major blow to all forces of terrorism."

Following the election, U.S. military planners hope to shift from offensive operations against the insurgents to training Iraqi forces to do the job. Still, U.S. troops are continuing offensive operations, arresting four suspected rebels in northern Iraq and killing a suspected member of an al-Qaida-linked group northwest of Baghdad, the U.S. command said Wednesday.

Three days after the balloting, the Iraqi election commission has still not released any results or turnout figures, promising them with a week. Political sources say the ticket endorsed by the Shiite clergy was expected to win the largest share of the 275 National Assembly seats.

Shiites are estimated to form 60 percent of the population, and the clerical-linked party had been expected to finish first among the 111 candidate lists. Tickets led by Kurdish politicians and by Allawi were also expected to finish strong.

.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,434 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,096 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The AP count includes four military civilians and is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,296 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 987 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 10,770 U.S. servicemen have been wounded in hostile action, according to a Defense Department tally released Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Pfc. James H. Miller IV, 22, Cincinnati; killed Sunday in Ramadi, Iraq, after an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, South Korea.

■ Army Sgt. Lindsey T. James, 23, Urbana, Mo.; killed Saturday in Baghdad when an explosive detonated near his patrol, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

■ Army Pfc. Stephen A. Castellano, 21, Long Beach, Calif.; died Friday of a non-combat-related injury in Mosul, Iraq, assigned to 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The following three soldiers were killed Friday in Baghdad when an explosive detonated after striking a nearby vehicle. They were assigned to the Army National Guard's 108th Engineer Battalion, 25th Brigade Combat Team, New Roads, La.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan R. Reed, 25, Opelousa, La.

■ Army Spc. Michael S. Evans II, 22, Marrero, La.

■ Army Spc. Christopher J. Ramsey, 20, Batchelor, La.

Jackson to help hostage

CORONA, Calif. — The Rev. Jesse Jackson will try to help negotiate the release of a kidnapped American contractor who was snatched in Baghdad three months ago and recently appeared pleading for his life at gunpoint.

Susan Hallums, 52, turned to

the civil rights leader after calling on politicians and President Bush to help free her ex-husband, Roy Hallums, 56, who was kidnapped Nov. 1.

Jackson, who has secured the release of hostages on several occasions, said he was confident the captors would cooperate.

From The Associated Press

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Koizumi in support of constitutional change to call JSDF 'military'

By NATALIE PEARSON
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Wednesday backed revising Japan's post-World War II pacifist constitution to openly call government troops the Japanese military.

The war-renouncing constitution — drafted by U.S. occupation forces — unchanged since 1947 — bars the use of military force in settling international disputes and prohibits maintaining armed forces for warfare.

The Japanese government has interpreted that to mean the nation can maintain troops for self-defense, which have developed into one of the most modern, best-equipped militaries in the world.

However, Japanese troops have taken an increasingly

high-profile role in recent years, prompting some critics to accuse Tokyo of moving away from its postwar pacifism.

Koizumi, who has strongly backed a bigger role for Japan's forces, said Wednesday it was time for the troops to be openly referred to as a military.

"To still be saying that Self-Defense Forces are in violation of the constitution strikes both the public and experts as strange. Whether they're called Self-Defense Forces or a Self-Defense Military, an organization to defend Japan should be clearly defined so that it does not raise issues of unconstitutionality," he told reporters.

Earlier during parliamentary questioning, Koizumi had agreed with opposition Democratic Party lawmaker Yukio Hatayama that the forces should "be clearly designated as a Self-Defense Military" in the constitution.

Koizumi added that regardless of what the troops are called, "in the event they are dispatched abroad, they will not engage in the use of force."



Koizumi

Report: N. Korea sold uranium

Official alleges evidence of nuclear exports to Libya

By GEORGE GEDDA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence agencies and government scientists have come up with strong evidence that North Korea sold processed uranium to Libya, apparently to assist the North African country in nuclear weapons development, an administration official said Wednesday.

The materials were detected in Libya's shipments of weapons-related materials to the United States after the country agreed to dismantle its nuclear arms program in late 2003, said the official, asking not to be identified.

The official said he was uncertain as to whether U.S. officials ever asked the Libyans about the country of origin of its nuclear materials.

The possibility of North Korea's export of nuclear materials and technology has long been a concern of the United States. The reclusive communist state is known to have sold missiles to Iran and Syria in past years.

The story about the alleged dealings between North Korea and Libya was first reported by The New York Times. It has previously been reported that Libya relied on the A.Q. Kahn network in Pakistan for nuclear materials.

The White House and the State Department had no comment on the reported link between Libya and North Korea.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said, "North Korea's nuclear program and nuclear weapons programs and its proliferation activities are a threat to global peace and security."

"North Korea's actions underscore the importance of moving forward through the six-party talks."

He said two members of the National Security Council staff recently traveled to several Asian capitals to discuss ways to restart the negotiations.

"We put forward a proposal at the last round of talks," McClellan said. "We believe it addresses the concerns of all parties involved in these decisions. We believe that the proposal is the way forward to finding a peaceful, diplomatic solution to the nuclear issue in North Korea."

The proposal and the six-party process is the best way for North Korea to address the concerns of the international community and to end its international isolation," he said.

The U.S. objective in the discus-

sions in the verifiable dismantling of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

The Times report said the tentative conclusion about the North Korean activity supports earlier clues that the state had exported fuel for atomic weapons.

Government officials in Washington are trying to determine whether North Korea's exports are for atomic weapons, for other countries, including Iran and Syria. So far, there is no evidence of that, The Times said.

Experts said the findings advance the West's understanding of North Korea's uranium program.

"It means the North Koreans have built a facility to process uranium," Leonard S. Specter, the deputy director of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute in California, told The Times. "And it raises the disturbing prospect that they've now made enough of it to feel comfortable selling some."

Nuclear intelligence experts said they compared samples of the Libyan uranium with samples from other countries by matching uranium isotopes.

They concluded that the uranium had to have come from North Korea.

Sri Lanka: Some tsunami victims not getting aid

Nine survivors found on an island in India

By SHIMALI SENANAYAKE
The Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Bureaucratic bungling has blocked food and medicine from reaching 70 percent of Sri Lanka laid destitute by the tsunami, a government official said Wednesday, while nine survivors of the disaster were found deep in a jungle on a remote island in India.

In a drama that has captured worldwide attention, a judge in Sri Lanka ruled Wednesday that a couple must undergo a DNA test to prove they are the parents of the 4-month-old tsunami survivor known as "Baby 81." After the ruling, the distraught couple stormed into the hospital where the infant is being held, screaming "Give us our baby!" They were briefly held by police, then released.

Thilak Ranaviraj, chief of Sri Lanka's presidential task force coordinating relief, said bureaucratic incompetence and ignorance had considerably slowed aid delivery. He estimated relief had reached only 30 percent of those who need it in the second hardest-hit nation, after Indonesia.

"This is not satisfactory," Ranaviraj said. "The president directed me to see that all families, or at least 70 percent of them, get relief by this week-end."

The massive Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami that struck on Dec. 26 killed more than 30,000 in Sri Lanka, while nearly 1 million people lost family members or their homes.

On India's remote Campbell Bay island, police searching for bodies found nine tu-



Murugupillai Jayarajah, center, a parent claimant of the tsunami survivor infant dubbed "Baby 81," cries as his wife, Jenita Jayarajah, holds the baby at a hospital in Kalmunai, Sri Lanka, on Wednesday. A judge on Wednesday ordered DNA tests to determine whether they are "Baby 81's" real parents.

many survivors deep in a jungle. They spent 38 days wandering across villages flattened by the killer waves, eating coconuts and hunting birds to survive and making fires by rubbing sticks together.

The nine people belong to the Nicobar archipelago, is also known as Campbell Bay, after its only town. It is just 140 miles from Banda Aceh, the worst-hit area in Indonesia. Many of the island's villages were wiped out.

"They were sitting in the forest when we saw them, and they just ran to us, without saying anything," said Hussain. They seemed happy, yes, but there was no hugging and tears and shouting in joy and all that."

The nine people belong to the Nicobar archipelago, is also known as Campbell Bay, after its only town. It is just 140 miles from Banda Aceh, the worst-hit area in Indonesia. Many of the island's villages were wiped out.

"They were sitting in the forest when we saw them, and they just ran to us, without saying anything," said Hussain. They seemed happy, yes, but there was no hugging and tears and shouting in joy and all that."

Two of the survivors were severely dehydrated and were hospitalized. The other seven were sent to a relief camp.

In the Sri Lanka capital, hundreds of people protested outside the U.N. World Food Program office Wednesday, complaining they had not received food rations. Demonstrators from the southern coastal town of Matara submitted a petition seeking U.N. intervention.

This was not the first sign of trouble with Sri Lanka's aid effort. On Tuesday, the government began investigating complaints that food aid intended for tsunami victims had disappeared and some of the homeless living in camps were being fed rotten supplies.

The World Food Program said it had donated some 10,000 tons of rice, lentils and sugar and had delivered the supplies to government stores island-wide.

"We can't understand why the people aren't getting it," World Food Program spokesman Selvi Sachithanandam said.

The cumulative death toll from 11 nations stood at between 158,000 and 178,000 Wednesday, with another 142,000 people estimated missing.

World leaders are trying to further coordinate the global aid effort, with former President Clinton appointed Tuesday to oversee the U.N. effort to plan for post-tsunami reconstruction.

Also Wednesday, Australian Prime Minister John Howard visited Indonesia's battered Aceh region on the northern tip of Sumatra island. He surveyed damage by helicopter, visited a field hospital to meet Australian aid workers and discussed Australian-funded relief efforts with Indonesian officials.

"Nothing I have seen on television could capture the extent of the devastation," Howard said after flying over the coast.

A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.2 Wednesday caused property damage among residents of Indonesia's main Java island, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Nepal king appoints Cabinet full of loyalists

BY TIM SULLIVAN
The Associated Press

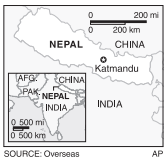
KATMANDU, Nepal — King Gyanendra announced a 10-member Cabinet dominated by his own supporters on Wednesday, one day after he dismissed Nepal's government, declared emergency rule and virtually cut his nation off from the world. An official later said the new government would reach out to the country's Maoist rebels to renew peace talks.

Dozens of politicians have been arrested and many more have gone underground to avoid detention, an opposition figure said, as extra riot police and soldiers patrolled the streets of the capital, Katmandu, where civil liberties were severely curtailed.

Gyanendra will head the newly appointed Cabinet, state radio said in a report that gave few details other than the new body's members.

"The king has expressed confidence that everyone will support and cooperate with the new Cabinet," the palace said in a statement.

Shortly after the king swore in



his new Cabinet, Home Minister Dan Bahadur Shahi said the government soon would be approaching the Maoist rebels to renew peace talks.

"The king has the chief executive authority now, so it will be easier for the rebels to come for peace talks. It is what they have been wanting," Shahi said in comments carried on state radio.

The Maoists, who control much of rural Nepal, broke off peace talks in August 2003. The rebels balked at later invitations from the government of ousted Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to renew the talks, insisting that real authority remained in the hands of the king.

The king on Tuesday sacked Deuba's interim government, accusing it of failing to hold parliamentary elections or control the Maoist insurgency and pledging to do both himself within three years.

World leaders condemned the power grab — Gyanendra's second in three years — saying it undermined democracy and the fight against the insurgency.

Pontiff resting in hospital

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II had a restless night and his condition stabilized after he was rushed to a hospital with breathing trouble, but he will spend several more days at the clinic to recover from the flu, the Vatican said Wednesday.

Around the world, Roman Catholics paused to pray for the health of the 84-year-old pontiff.

Tests showed John Paul's heart and respiration were normal, and he got several hours' rest after being taken by ambulance to the hospital Tuesday night, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

The pontiff was running a slight fever from the flu and would spend "a few more days" at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic for treatment of respiratory problems, he said.

"There is no cause for alarm," Navarro-Valls said.

The pope has Parkinson's disease, and Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, the Vatican's top health official, told Associated Press Television News that the slumping pontiff's inability to hold his back up straight has left his lungs and diaphragm in a crushed position.

Navarro-Valls insisted the



Barbara Glowacka, right, prays Wednesday inside St. Anna Church in Warsaw, Poland. Poles prayed Wednesday for their country's most famous son, Pope John Paul II, as coverage of his hospitalization dominated the nation's front pages and airwaves.

pope had never lost consciousness, and he did not need a tracheotomy to insert a tube into his windpipe to help him breathe. He said John Paul participated from his hospital bed in a Mass celebrated by his secretary in the room.

Navarro-Valls characterized Tuesday night's hurried admission to a special papal suite on the 10th floor of the hospital as "mainly precautionary." Trying to appear reassuring, Navarro-Valls even joked at one point that John Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital because "the subway doesn't go that far."

Navarro-Valls, who has a medical degree, told The Associated Press early Wednesday the pope had the flu and acute laryngeal tracheitis — inflammation of the

windpipe — and suffered a "certain difficulty in breathing." He denied Italian news reports that John Paul had a CAT scan at the hospital and was taken to intensive care.

In a separate statement, the Vatican said the pope also experienced a "larynx spasm crisis."

The spasms likely were a complication from the respiratory illness the pope has had. Experts said it was possible his Parkinson's disease, which makes muscle control difficult, made it harder for him to breathe.

From John Paul's native Poland to Manila to Moscow to the United States, the faithful gathered to pray for his recovery.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Americans "thoughts and prayers are with the Holy Father."

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IN THE STATES

EU-China embargo

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday strongly condemned the European Union's plans to lift a 15-year-old arms embargo on China, saying such a move would endanger both Taiwan and U.S. troops stationed in Asia.

The security of American troops, "is directly threatened by the shortsighted and greed-driven initiative emanating from Europe," said Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif. "It shows that they have truly lost their moral compass."

The United States and the EU jointly imposed arms embargoes on China following the crackdown on the Tiananmen Square democracy movement in 1989.

S.D. gay marriage vote

PIERRE, S.D. — South Dakota legislators decided Wednesday that voters should choose whether a ban on gay marriage should be injected into the state constitution.

A measure that would put the issue on the ballot easily cleared the House State Affairs Committee 10-2. It now goes to the House floor.

If South Dakota residents approve the measure, they will join voters from 13 other U.S. states who have already backed state constitutional bans on gay marriage.

Gonzales support

WASHINGTON — Confirming Alberto Gonzales as the new attorney general "will resonate throughout the Hispanic community" despite Democratic complaints that he is connected to the Bush administration's policies on foreign detainees, Republicans said Wednesday.

GOP senators continued to praise Gonzales through Senate speeches the day before his confirmation vote in that chamber to become the first Hispanic attorney general. Democrats have already said they won't filibuster the White House counsel and former Texas Supreme Court judge.

As many as 30 could vote against his confirmation Thursday, including Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, who announced his opposition Wednesday.

Clinton opposition

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Remorse as the possibility may be, former Republican Senator Jesse Helms wants to make sure former President Clinton does not lead the United Nations after Secretary-General Kofi Annan retires next year.

In a fund-raising letter, Helms invokes the specter of Clinton one day leading the United Nations. The letter contains a petition asking President Bush to "rebel" all efforts by Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, and every other liberal in Congress to push for Bill Clinton to become Secretary-General of the United Nations.

From The Associated Press

Social Security, Iraq highlights of Bush speech

BY TERENCE HUNT

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush challenged a divided Congress on Wednesday to take political risks "to strengthen and save Social Security," saying the government's costliest social program was headed for bankruptcy unless changed. Bush's plan envisions that benefits promised to workers 55 and older would remain unchanged.

Bush, in his State of the Union address, pledged to work with Congress "to find the most effective combination" of revisions, although he has ruled out some remedies, such as raising Social Security taxes.

"One of America's most important institutions — a symbol of trust between generations — is also in need of wise and effective reform," the president said.

Excerpts of his remarks were released in advance of the speech.

On the international front, Bush said Sunday's election in Iraq "opens a new phase in our work in that country. We will increasingly focus our efforts on helping prepare more capable Iraqi security forces — forces with skilled officers, and an effective command structure."

Bush also promised to push forward for Mideast peace.

The goal of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace, is within reach, and America will help them achieve that goal," the president said.

Recalling his inauguration theme of spreading freedom throughout the world, Bush said, "The only force powerful enough to stop the rise of tyranny and terror, and replace hatred with hope, is the force of human freedom."

With the United States spending more than \$1 billion a week in Iraq, Bush urged Congress to support his request for an additional \$80 billion.

"During this time of war we must continue to sup-

For complete text of Bush's address, visit www.stripes.com



President Bush, shown speaking last January, is ready to challenge Congress to approve a stack of politically divisive measures he has proposed before without success, from major changes in Social Security to a loosening of the nation's immigration laws.

port our military and given them the tools for victory," he said.

While key allies such as Germany and France opposed the war, Bush said his administration "will continue to build the coalitions that will defeat the dangers of our time."

Emboldened by his re-election, Bush was calling on lawmakers to move on several controversial fronts, including liberalizing the nation's immigration laws, imposing limits on medical malpractice lawsuits and simplifying taxes.

Jindal points to election success

Meanwhile, a U.S. congressman from Louisiana called on his fellow lawmakers to show solidarity with Iraqi voters by attending the State of the Union with purple-ink-stained fingers.

Rep. Bobby Jindal, the son of immigrants from India, planned to dip a finger in purple ink before President Bush's State of the Union speech Wednesday.

Those who participated in Sunday's elections had a finger stained with purple ink to prove they had voted.

In a letter that was to be circulated Wednesday among fellow lawmakers, Jindal, a Republican, said he would have ink available for anyone attending the speech who wanted to make a gesture of support for Iraqis and "people throughout the world who seek freedom."

Coast Guard keeping watch for terrorist divers

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Coast Guard is seeking to protect the nation's ports from terrorist attacks by scuba divers with a sonar system so powerful it can distinguish swimmers from dolphins.

The security device, to be unveiled Wednesday, scans port waters and alerts authorities on land to any divers. A response boat then drops a sonar net below the surface for confirmation and sends back high-resolution images. "Instead of alerting us to every sea lion, manatee or fish, this system will help us identify objects as a diver who just got lost or someone who intends on doing us harm," Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Alan Tubbs said Tuesday. "To

date the Coast Guard's law enforcement has been mostly above water. This is just another capability."

Tubbs declined to discuss in detail how the system actually differentiates humans from animals, how far away it can detect divers or how many were being used. Cost estimates for the system, developed by Coast Guard researchers over the last 2½ years with outside technology, were also unavailable, he said.

The device would only be deployed periodically and could prove especially useful to inspect waters during major public events like welcome ceremonies for military ships returning to port.

Coast Guard crews have been

operating the system along the West Coast over the past year, as well as training with it along the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast.

So far, the device has been near flawless during testing, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Smith.

"Our unit divers were not trying to trick the system, but we haven't been able to yet," Smith said.

Concerns about terrorist strikes by scuba divers were raised three years ago after the FBI announced it was investigating whether al-Qaida operatives took scuba training to help blow up ships at anchor, power plants, bridges, depots or other waterfront targets.

The Coast Guard has no infor-

Dems offer criticism, little else

BY ALAN FRAM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats came out swinging at President Bush's policies and plans but used his State of the Union speech on Wednesday more to hurt critics than offer specific alternatives.

Before the president delivered his speech, Democrats tried setting benchmarks for measuring how he would address major issues.

"We all know that the United States cannot stay in Iraq indefinitely and continue to be viewed as an occupying force," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, according to excerpts of the televised response she was to deliver after Bush's remarks.

"Neither should we slip out the back door, falsely declaring victory but leaving chaos," said Pelosi, D-Calif. "We have never heard a clear plan from this administration for ending our presence in Iraq."

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, who has planned to respond for Democrats, said Bush's Social Security plans sound more like "Social Security roulette" than reforms.

"Democrats are all for giving Americans more of a say and more choices when it comes to their retirement savings. But that doesn't mean taking Social Security's guarantee and gambling with it. And that's coming from a senator who represents Las Vegas," Reid, D-Nev., according to excerpts released before his response to Bush's address.

Earlier, Reid told reporters that without a specific White House blueprint for overhauling Social Security, he saw no need for Democrats to offer "a counter-plan to nothing."

Reid and Pelosi said they detected widespread opposition to Bush's idea of letting beneficiaries divert some Social Security revenues to new personal investment accounts.

operation about any current underwater threats, Tubbs said.

Randolph Hall, co-director for the Center for Homeland Security at the University of Southern California, noted that sonars have long been used to detect submarines but he was unaware of any with sufficient resolution to tell divers and other objects apart.

He added that scuba divers could target ships with higher accuracy than a small explosive-laden boat like the one used in the USS Cole blast that killed 17 sailors in 2000. "Some craft loaded with explosives ... are probably a bigger threat because it's easier to deploy a larger amount of explosives."

He said an underwater diver could put explosives at a more critical part of the ship, Hall said.



Handler Bill Deeley holds Punksutawney Phil, left, as Punksutawney Groundhog club President William Cooper reads the proclamation that there would be six more weeks of winter after Phil saw his shadow in Punksutawney, Pa., on Wednesday.

Phil says: Don't dig out your bathing suit

BY DAN NEPHIN

The Associated Press

PUNKSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Each February, Americans weary of the cold and wintry weather look to an unlikely forecaster: a chubby groundhog known as Punksutawney Phil.

The news Wednesday wasn't good. Phil saw his shadow, which in the quaint American tradition suggests another six weeks of winter.

He delivered the prediction after he was pulled from his burrow in an oak stump by a top-hatted handler, eliciting boos from the thousands who had gathered in the cold.

"He's only the messenger!" one of the members of the Punksutawney Groundhog Club — the volunteer group in charge of Phil and the town's Groundhog Day festivities — reminded the crowd braving the frigid weather.

The tradition that began in 1886 stems from the Christian holiday of Candlemas, and the belief that if a hibernating animal sees its shadow, winter will last another six weeks. If there's no shadow, spring will come early.

Whether Phil sees his shadow is beside the point, however.

Organizers of the event and the festivals, concerts and craft fair in this town 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh say Groundhog Day is all about the fun — and a chance to shake winter's chilly cloak.

An energetic crowd of about 2,000 people were already assembled by 3:30 a.m. Wednesday. Most were bundled up against the cold, but at least one young woman braved the weather in a bikini top.

Since the tradition began, Phil saw his shadow for the 95th time. He hasn't seen his shadow 14 times; nine years have no record of the outcome, according to the Punksutawney club.

Houston memorial honors Columbia's 7 astronauts

BY PAM EASTON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Evelyn Husband couldn't get her son, Matthew, to come to breakfast. She found him staring at a clock instead.

"He was watching the clock and remembering when exactly it happened," the widow said Tuesday, referring to space shuttle Columbia's disintegration over Texas shortly before 8 a.m. two years ago. "This is the first time he's done that, but he's 9 now. He was 7 when it happened."

Matthew's father, commander Rick Husband, and six other astronauts died as Columbia returned from a 16-day science and research mission on Feb. 1, 2003.

On the second anniversary of the tragedy, Houston Mayor Bill White and other city officials dedicated a granite memorial in a downtown park to honor the astronauts. A similar tribute to the seven astronauts who died in the 1986 Challenger disaster is nearby.

Husband, wearing a necklace with a shuttle emblem she got from her husband, said she still deals with the tragedy every day.

"There is such a desire in my heart to return to

normal and yet this is something we are never going to be able to forget," she said.

Johnson Space Center Director Gen. Jefferson D. Howell Jr. said it was fitting that a Columbia memorial was placed in Houston. "As most of us in Houston know, the first word spoken from the surface of the moon was Houston," he said.

He said Columbia's final mission was a wonderful success because "what they accomplished was incredible. They just didn't make it all the way home."

Investigators determined the shuttle was brought down by a hole in the leading edge of its left wing caused when a piece of insulating foam broke off and struck the wing during liftoff. The searing gases of re-entry entered the gap and melted the wing from the inside out, leading to the breakup of the orbiter.

The loss is still painful, said Jon Clark, a NASA neurologist who was married to astronaut Laurel Clark, a member of Columbia's final crew. "It's not the searing heart ripped out of your chest, it's more of just a chronic ache," he said.

Elsewhere in Texas, residents laid out roses during a remembrance ceremony in Hemphill, a small town where shuttle debris was found after Columbia broke apart.

Rough seas torment touring students

BY JEANNETTE J. LEE

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Lauren Osgood watched as waves and flocks of sea spray licked at the glass on the boat. But there was nothing to hold onto.

Computers, library books and furniture crashed to the floor and were flung against the walls as the ship leaned like a massive metronome from port to starboard and back again.

"We were right by the exit doors on either side, and so you could like see the waves on the doors, which freaked me out," said Osgood, 21, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who was enrolled in the Semester at Sea program that used the re-

search ship Explorer as a floating classroom.

"That's kind of when I began to panic because you could see the water and realize that you were tipping that much," she said.

The 591-foot Explorer limped into Honolulu Harbor on Monday for repairs and inspections after passengers endured more than a week's worth of rough seas.

None of the students suffered injuries beyond bruises, but one crew member suffered a broken leg and another a broken arm.

The ship's seasickness motion made sleeping difficult, so many of the nearly 700 students were awake when a wave shattered the glass on the ship's bridge and three of the four engines shut down early last Wednesday.

The wave also short-circuited the electronic instruments used to steer the ship, forcing the crew to use a compass and navigational charts instead.

The incident occurred about 650 miles south of Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands and about 1,300 miles southwest of Anchorage.

Students said rough seas had plagued the ship since they left Vancouver on Jan. 18 with 990 people aboard, including the students enrolled in a University of Pittsburgh program designed to give them a global perspective. Tuition for the program is about \$20,000.

The crew distributed plastic bags for nauseous passengers, and students sat on the floor during classes because the furniture was not secured to the floor and would topple with the ship's movement.

Study finds cell use by young drivers slows reaction times, increases risk

BY LEON D'SOUZA

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Talking on a cell phone makes you drive like a retiree — even if you're only a teen, a study shows.

A report from the University of Utah says when motorists between 18 and 25 talk on cell phones, they drive like elderly people — moving and reacting more slowly and increasing their risk of accidents.

And it put a 20-year-old driver behind the wheel with a cell phone, his reaction times are the same as a 70-year-old driver," said David Strayer, a University of Utah psychology professor and principal author of the study. "It's like instant aging."

And it doesn't matter whether the phone is hand-held or hands-free, he said. Any activity requir-

ing a driver to "actively be part of a conversation" likely will impair driving abilities, Strayer said.

In fact, motorists who talk on cell phones are more impaired than drunken drivers with blood-alcohol levels exceeding 0.08. Strayer and colleague Frank Drews, an assistant professor of psychology, found during research conducted in 2003.

In Virginia, the Senate on Friday passed a bill that would ban motorists younger than 18 from talking on cellular phones while driving. Sen. Jay O'Brien said the legislation would make Virginia the first state to ban minors from using mobile phones while driving a car.

The cell phone and teens study appears in this winter's issue of Human Factors, the quarterly journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

Strayer said they found that when 18-to-25-year-olds were placed in a driving simulator and talked on a cellular phone, they reacted to brake lights from a car in front of them as slowly as 65- to 74-year-olds who were not using a cell phone.

The study found that drivers who talked on cell phones were 18 percent slower in braking and took 17 percent longer to regain the speed they lost when they braked.

The new research questions the effectiveness of cell phone usage laws in states such as New York and New Jersey, which only ban the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.

It's not so much the handling of a phone, Strayer said, but the fact that having a conversation is a mental process that can drain concentration.



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Potential jurors unfazed by idea of 6-month trial

BY TIM MOLLOY

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — The judge in the Michael Jackson molestation case ended the first stage of jury selection a day early, in part because a surprisingly large number of prospective jurors said they were willing to serve.

Santa Barbara County Judge Rodney S. Melville said roughly 250 of the 430 prospects screened Monday and Tuesday were willing to serve during the six-month trial.

He called off plans to interview 300 prospects Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning, saying there were plenty of people who could serve on the panel of 12 and eight alternates.

"I think we have enough jurors," Melville said.

Individual questioning of the prospects was to begin Monday.

Trial watchers said the jury selection process had been sped along by the high percentage of prospects who had no objections to serving.

"Normally when you have a trial where the judge estimates six months, you're gonna get two-thirds, three-quarters or more saying they can't do it for one reason or another," said Michael Brennan, a law professor at the University of Southern California.

There are going to be some people who want to be on this jury, just for the notoriety. Some of these people are going to end up at the end of the day making some money," he said.

Jackson, 46, is charged with molesting a teenage boy and playing him in alcohol at his Neverland Ranch in early 2003. He also is accused of conspiring to hold the boy and his family captive.

During the 1½ days of screening jurors, prospects asked to be removed from consideration for reasons ranging from age to sick relatives to employers who wouldn't pay them while they were on jury duty.

Jackson smiled Tuesday as he rose to face the potential jurors.

Among those seeking to avoid the trial were people who said they could not leave their posts at



Pop singer Michael Jackson, right, waves as he and his attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr., left, depart the Santa Barbara County courthouse Tuesday, after the second day of jury selection in Jackson's child molestation trial in Santa Maria, Calif.

nearby Vandenberg Air Force Base, several pregnant women who are expecting in the next few months, and a large number of self-employed workers who said they would lose their livelihood if they had to serve on the Jackson jury.

Also seeking to be excused were full-time students, a man who said he had to train horses for upcoming equestrian shows and a Navy seaman who didn't know if he would be paid during jury service.

Lawyers will review the remaining prospects' written questionnaires to see if both sides can agree on which prospects should be removed before beginning intensive questioning in court Monday.

Report bashes MTV for 'sleaze'

BY ELISE CASTELLI

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A conservative advocacy group that focuses on media decency issues slammed the cable network MTV on Tuesday for "incessant sleaze" in its youth-oriented programming.

MTV viewers, many of whom are teenagers, are exposed to far higher levels of sex, violence and other adult behaviors than what is found during the final prime-time hour of broadcast television, the Parents Television Council said in a report released Tuesday.

Following the uproar over the exposure of singer Janet Jackson's breast during last year's Super Bowl halftime show, which was produced by MTV, council researchers watched more than 170 hours of the channel's spring-break coverage during one week last March and logged every instance of sexual content, violence, and drug and alcohol use.

Their report, "MTV Smut Peddles: Targeting Kids with Sex, Drugs and Alcohol," found an average of nine sexual scenes per hour throughout the day. By comparison, the group's study of sex on broadcast television found 5.8 sexual instances during the last hour of prime time, when broadcast standards are loosened slightly because children are presumed to have gone to bed.

"Watching MTV changes the attitudes and perceptions of young

viewers," L. Brent Bozell, the council's president, said Tuesday at a news conference on Capitol Hill.

One study found that 73 percent of boys and 78 percent of girls between ages 12 and 19 tuned into MTV, according to the report.

An MTV spokeswoman called the report "unfair" and "inaccurate," noting that the network had received Peabody and Emmy awards for its programming, such as "Fight for Your Rights," which focused on issues such as tolerance, discrimination and sexual health, and "Choose or Lose," which encouraged young people to vote in the presidential election.

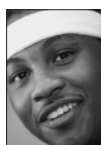
"These are program initiatives that this report ignores," spokeswoman Jeannie Kedas said.

"A lot was taken out of context," she said, pointing out that the council focused on programming during one time of year. "Mr. Bozell has yet again unfairly and inaccurately painted MTV with the brush of irresponsibility around sex and violent content. We reflect young people's culture in responsible ways."

The Parents Television Council frequently files Federal Communications Commission complaints against MTV and other networks for programming it considers inappropriate. In January the FCC threw out 36 complaints filed by the council, saying they did not address material that was "patently offensive under contemporary community standards" — the threshold for FCC action.

'Melo,' police team up

Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony will assist a campaign against drugs and violence following criticism of his appearance in



Anthony

a DVD that warned witnesses about working with the police. Maryland state and federal officials approached Anthony, hoping his celebrity would be a draw.

The DVD, titled "Stop Snitching," has circulated in Baltimore since November. Anthony, a Baltimore native, appears briefly, standing next to a man who warns that anyone who tips off police about drug deals will "get a hole in his head."

Anthony doesn't respond to any of the comments on tape but appears in the DVD's credits.

Anthony later said he doesn't approve of the DVD's contents and didn't know it was being made.

Reeves gets a star

Keanu Reeves, who traveled through time in "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" and took on humanity's machine conquerors in "The Matrix" films, has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Reeves, 40, was honored with the star Monday for a career that includes movies such as the action thriller "Speed" and "Point Break," the romances "Something's Gotta Give" and "A Walk in the Clouds," and the dramas "Little Buddha" and "My Own Private Idaho."

His star was placed along Hollywood Boulevard near where some action scenes in "Speed" were shot. He honor came just weeks before the release of his next movie, "Constantine," adapted from the DC Comics series.

Stories and photos from wire services



Reeves

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Jose

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YOUR MONEY

Misawa Airman's Attic gone, deals aren't

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — After making a permanent change-of-station move here in July, military spouse Cindy Straight picked up some free dishes and other household goods from the Airman's Attic to get started in her family's new Misawa home.

If Straight were to swing by the attic today, all she would find is an empty lot.

Misawa residents lost their Airman's Attic this past fall, when Building 655 was demolished. Base officials said the government of Japan had scheduled the building, built in 1953, to be razed due to its age and to allow for the rebuilding of Grissom Dining Facility.

Across the Air Force, Airman's Attic — usually run by volunteers under a private organization — provides donated furniture, clothing, household and baby items for free. At Misawa, all ranks, as well as civilians, could use the attic, although not most air bases have it typically available for families E-4 and below.

But families who shopped at Misawa's attic shouldn't lament just yet.

Though Airman's Attic is no longer a physical space with a sign in front, its services continue to be provided, said Maj. Matt Corneil, 35th Mission Support Squadron commander.

"The function is still alive here," he said. "We had to go to some innovative solutions, and

How the Thrift Store works

The Misawa Thrift Store accepts donations of clothes, books, household goods (including dishes and decorations), tools, linens, computer products, DVDs, videos, music items and more.

The store does not accept stained, torn, broken or dirty items, undergarments or fatigues. Donations can be placed in a box behind Building 540 across from the post office. Up to 20 items may be assigned per week, consisting of 10 clothing and 10 non-clothing items. The owner sets the price; the Thrift Store commission of 20 percent is subtracted from all items.

The Thrift Store has special discounts that include 50-cent Saturdays, when all donated items cost 50 cents. Families E-1 to E-4 can take advantage of the free shopping program during regular hours, except Saturdays. Military uniforms are free to active-duty members with an ID card, with a limit of two sets per month. The store also keeps a wish list and will call individuals if the product becomes available or comes into the store. Extra items, such as clothes not in season, are donated to the Morioka Orphanage. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the second Saturday of every month. Call DSN 226-4447 for more information or to volunteer.

—Stars and Stripes

it's not all in one place, but all the functions are being performed."

The Thrift Shop, located in Building 540, has absorbed most of the attic. And though clothing and other merchandise at the store carries a nominal price tag, families E-4 and below from any service may shop for up to \$20 worth of items for free once a month under a pilot program started several months ago, and military uniforms are free to active-duty members with ID.

"Our question was, 'How much was it going to affect our income coming in?' because we have expenses we have to pay," said Thrift Shop manager Julie Yager. "It hasn't cut into it too much, so

we should be able to continue. For one thing, there's not another organization that can take it on, and it's a big need on base."

The other services carried by Airman's Attic — the "loan closet" for families making a permanent change-of-station and the food pantry — are set up in a room at the Torii Building under the direction of Family Services and the Family Support Center. Both are open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Maj. Victor Baumgartner, Family Support Center director, said there were no plans to move the items of Airman's Attic to it and made sense to move it into the Thrift Shop because of the staff members and volunteers already in place.



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Amanda Thompson, a military spouse at Misawa Air Base, Japan, browses for children's clothing at the base's Thrift Shop.

The Thrift Shop, run by the Misawa Officers Spouses Club with help from the Enlisted Community Organization, is a nonprofit endeavor staffed mostly by volunteers, officials said. All of its profits, after operating expenses, go back into the Misawa community in the form of scholarships and donations to youth and other organizations. Most items are donated to the Thrift Shop, though some are sold on consignment.

Since taking on Airman's Attic, the Thrift Shop has seen the number of individuals taking advantage of E-1-to-E-4 privileges steadily grow. In October, 32 people signed up for free shopping and selected \$468 worth of items, according to Yager. In December, the Thrift Shop gave away \$717 in merchandise to 50 participants.

"In some respects, I think air-

men may have more of a choice because of the selection at the Thrift Shop," Corneil said, noting families E-1 to E-4 with a greater need can apply for more than \$20 in items through their unit first sergeant.

For military spouse Amanda Thompson, the switch to the Thrift Shop has been nearly seamless. "It's about the same," she said last week, while using her monthly free shopping quota. "I get a lot of my girls' clothes here. I'm not really missing anything."

Straight, who grabbed up those dishes when moving to Misawa, admits she misses the attic, even though she thinks the Thrift Shop is a great base service.

"There's more selection here, it's just there's a price on it here," she said.

E-mail: jennifer.h.svan@starsandstripes.osd.mil

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				Not Chg		% YTD		52-wk	
High	Low	Name	Value	Change	Vol	Change	Vol	High	Low
10,356.37	9,742.46	Dow Jones Industrials	10,356.37	+0.20	30	-5.9	-31.4	45	45
3,823.96	3,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,823.96	+7.25	29	-5.06	+26.46	45	45
343.46	258.08	Dow Jones Utilities	343.46	+0.40	29	+3.1	+26.64	45	45
7,273.18	6,211.33	Russell 2000	7,273.18	+45.38	29	+1.43	+8.69	45	45
1,437.46	1,352.74	Alex Index	1,437.46	+7.17	31	-3.88	+10.10	45	45
1,191.19	1,253.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,191.19	+26.82	29	-3.30	-4.91	45	45
1,217.90	1,060.72	S&P 500	1,217.90	+11.84	29	-0.99	-1.86	47.40	47.40
549.29	549.29	Euro Stoxx 50	549.29	+0.25	29	-7.5	-3.40	45	45
656.11	515.90	Russell 2000	656.11	+4.12	29	+6.50	+28.46	45	45
12,024.36	10,750.52	DJI Wilshire 2000	12,024.36	+97.01	29	-3.88	-5.98	45	45

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	Open	Close	Name	Vol	Open	Close	Name	Vol	Open	Close
Plaza	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52
SPDR	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52
SPDR	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52
SPDR	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52
SPDR	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52
SPDR	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52
SPDR	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52
SPDR	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52
SPDR	401,185	21.86	21.86	SPDR	450,619	18.31	18.31	Intel	78,562	37.52	37.52

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				KEY MUTUAL FUNDS			
Name	Vol	Open	Close	Name	Vol	Open	Close
Alliant Technology	17	67.03	67.03	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Airbus Helicopters	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Bombardier	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Boeing	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Boeing	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Boeing	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Boeing	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Boeing	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Boeing	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11
Boeing	1,062	71.14	71.14	Fidelity Invest: Contra	37,528	32.11	32.11

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Feb. 3)	101.00
South Korean won (Feb. 2)	1,001.00
Euro costs (Feb. 2)	\$1.3373
Dollar buys (Feb. 2)	€0.7478
British pound (Feb. 2)	£1.93
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
British pound	\$1.8829
Canada (Dollar)	1.2365
Denmark (Krone)	5.7151
Egypt (Pound)	5.8367
Euro	\$1.3045/0.7666
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7996
Hungary (Forint)	188.43

Japan (Yen)	103.64
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	6.3705
Philippines (Peso)	54.99
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.638
South Korea (Won)	1,026.90
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1907
Thailand (Baht)	38.55
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4045

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.)

For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close	
Gold	\$420.80

Silver	1000-gramme round, 999.9 fine, London Good Delivery, 1000-gramme round, 999.9 fine, London Good Delivery	\$5.72
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INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.25

Savings and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Prepare in case of audit

Research your rights and obligations as a taxpayer.

NEW YORK — During income-tax filing time, every taxpayer's worst nightmare is getting audited.

It can be a nerve-racking experience if you aren't prepared. Here's how to get ready.

Before you file:
■ Check your return for accuracy. Do the math at least twice to make sure it is correct.

■ Check that you have declared all your income. Be especially careful if you're self-employed or do free-lance work.

■ If you're audited:
■ Do your homework. That's the recommendation of Jim Camp, author of "Start with No."

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In vote, Iraqis choose freedom

To U.S. servicemembers:

On Jan. 30 in Iraq, the world witnessed an important moment in the global struggle against tyranny: a moment that historians might one day call a major turning point. America's men and women in uniform, who were instrumental in the liberation of Iraq, were there to witness this moment as well.

During the struggle to bring freedom to Iraq, many of you have faced difficult times far from home. I suspect there have been moments along the way when some of those who have followed behind the effort would be worth the cost, or whether, even, the people you were trying to help truly stood with you.

Last Sunday, the Iraqi people answered those understandable questions in a resounding way—just as voters had in a resounding way in Afghanistan in October. The world is experiencing a global struggle between freedom and fear—and you are on the side of freedom. That's the side to be in. And the people of Iraq, have chosen to stand with you.

Consider the courage it took for the Iraqi people to go to the polls when they had been warned that the act of voting could cost them and their family members their lives. Think of the determination they must have possessed to risk becoming targets for bombings or beatings.

And yet the Iraqis voted, millions of them.

■ Voters arrived on crutches and donkey carts, passing by graffiti warnings on the walls that said: "You vote, you die."

■ Iraqis came to a polling station to vote even after a rocket attack had killed three people several hours earlier.

■ Children waved Iraqi flags as they witnessed the birth of their new free system.

■ Elderly women with tears in their eyes held up their voting cards.

■ And voters displayed their ink-stained fingers as badges of honor in the fight against extremism.

Iraq's security forces also deserve recognition for their bravery and their willingness, despite the threats, to wear their country's uniforms and to provide security on Sunday for both the millions of voters and the thousands of election workers.

These are times of consequence. In the past few months, 50 million free people in Afghanistan and Iraq have begun to build new futures. They have rejected the extremism that fuels attacks on civilized people. And you have made that possible. Have no doubt: The courage and sacrifices of U.S. forces have helped to create the environment in which Afghans and Iraqis are developing the ability to take hold of their countries.

Now these free people continue to seek your help in building free, democratic and peaceful nations in some of the world's most violent regions. No one rea-

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity, and content.

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ures peace more than you who have endured the horrors of war.

So to all of you who are serving on freedom's front lines, and to your families, I offer my deepest appreciation and respect. To those who have lost friends or loved ones during this conflict or who have been injured in defense of our freedom, find comfort in knowing that your sacrifices have historic meaning. And know that one day, the people of Iraq and Afghanistan will find a way to thank you, as I do, from the bottom of my heart.

May God bless you and may God bless the United States.

Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of defense
Arlington, Va.

Syria trying to get rid of Sunnis

Syrian President Bashar Assad and his Baathists support the insurgency in Iraq by permitting terrorists to easily pass across the Syrian border. Assad has a selfish motive: Iraq is his political dumping ground; he wants Iraq to be a sanctuary for Sunni militants who may one day challenge his regime.

Syria has been under the domination of the Assad's Alawite clan since it took over Syria in the 1960s. The Alawites consider themselves Shiite Muslims and comprise only 11 percent of Syria. Periodically, the Syrian Sunni majority has challenged the Assad government; in February 1982 Hafez Assad, Bashar's father, sent Syrian security forces to the Sunni town of Hama. In a 27-day siege, Alawite-led troops slaughtered more than 10,000 Sunni townspeople as an example to other Syrians. Now Bashar Assad has a convenient way to rid himself of Sunni militants by assisting them in their desire to enter Iraq to fight and die in jihad.

Assad obviously prefers a political resolution with Iraq is dominated by the Shiite majority, which would support his mi-

nority rule over Syria. So he and his Baath Party gladly send Sunni "brothers" to Iraq. Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Muslim nations pursued the same policy when they sent their citizens to fight and die in Afghanistan.

Let us consider possible outcomes from Syrian terrorists who return to Damascus, battle-hardened and capable of rebellion. In the long term, Baathist Syria is creating its own insurgency. Right now, the American-led coalition is killing those Sunni terrorists whom Assad fears within his borders. We must oblige him for our own survival in the future, however, we should expect the veterans of the Iraqi insurgency to challenge antagonists with whom they have a long history—the governments of Syria, Jordan, Israel and Egypt should expect the cessation of hostilities in Iraq with caution.

President Assad knows who his enemies are, that is why he permits hundreds of terrorists to enter Iraq. Our hope is to become their cemetery before they create his.

First Lt. Mel Gagliano
New York, N.Y.

Questioning Gonzales justified

The writer of the letter "Politics drives retired brass" (Jan. 30) doesn't address the disturbing issues stated in the retired officers' Jan. 25 letter about the nomination of Albert Gonzales as attorney general ("Gonzales not right fit for GIs"). Those writers outlined some disturbing actions by Gonzales promoting torture and extended detentions without due process for the detainees (some who may well be innocent of any crime).

The writer asks: "Are enemy combatants without uniforms, representing indigenous people and soldiers, not representing an anarchist country, and thus not covered by the Geneva Conventions?"

What does this have to do with promoting a U.S. policy of torture and extended detentions? Who does get justice?

The writer asks if the retired officers served in combat. What does that have to do with concern about promoting torture and extended detentions without due process?

The writer asks whether the officers are speaking for the majority or a select few. What does that have to do with questioning a policy that promotes torture and extended detentions? Do we now need a consensus to voice a concern? Are the officers politically motivated? Aren't we all?

But when a person's actions are disapproved and he is appointed to an office of high visibility and responsibility representing us, shouldn't we question those actions and how they might reflect on future decisions representing us? Elected and appointed officials are not gods or kings. They work for "We the people." And "We the people" should hold them accountable for their actions.

George J. Seiser
Wurzburg, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

With U.S. help, Iraqis voted for their future

BY JOHN HALL
Media General

A year ago, just before President Bush delivered his State of the Union message, the U.S. death toll from the war in Iraq crept past 500. Now it has surged over the 1,400 mark.

Yet there has been an election and the Iraqis, for now, are brimming with euphoria as they set about the business of forming a new constitution and trying to lure the sullen Sunni Muslim minority into a secular government.

The election took place under protection of a U.S. security force that has grown 20 percent in a year to 150,000. Without that huge, well-armed force, backed by British and other international troops, the Iraqis probably would not have been able to vote.

A year ago, many Americans still thought of Iraq as a mop-up operation with the hardest fighting behind us. A few roadside bombs were going off here and there, but it had become a largely invisible war here. American troops had captured the big prize — Saddam Hussein himself — covering in a spider hole south of Tikrit only a month before Bush addressed the nation.

Not many were forecasting that the worst and cruellest part of the insurgency was ahead.

The Iraqi force being trained to take some of the load off the Americans and the "coalition of the willing" proved ill-suited to police the major cities of Iraq during the election season. At least they could not be trained in time to do the job themselves or the insurgents intimidated them and their families from taking up security roles.

Condoleezza Rice, during Senate confirmation hearings on her nomination as secretary of state, acknowledged that the administration's estimate of an Iraqi military force of 120,000 wasn't realistic. She promised to return later with a better estimate. She hasn't yet.

Still, despite skepticism about the Iraqis' capability to defend and preserve their fledgling democracy, the success of the elections has created another wave of optimism. It is the same kind of heady spirit that took hold after the American "shock and awe" victory and the fall of Baghdad in the spring of 2003.

A little euphoria may be in order now. The sight of Iraqis defying death threats to go to the polls has floored skeptics who had been accustomed to seeing nothing but a fright show in Iraq.

Even Europeans, with a legitimately elected government on the verge of being installed in Iraq, are said to be looking more favorably on finally making a contribution to Iraqi reconstruction. Bush may have a less gruff reception when he goes to Europe this month.

Indeed, it was a rare day for freedom. Iraqi democrats will be long remembered for their purple-fingered pluck against terrorists who had dragged their neighbors into the streets and executed them in full view of the world just for being election workers or security workers. Their fingers stained with and used to prevent multiple voting and fraud, they used them as symbols of defiance.

The purples now follow a distinguished line of company: Poland's Solidarity movement, Czech and German students who revolted against their communist governments, the Baltic people who literally



formed a human chain of 2 million from Vilnius to Tallinn to demonstrate their determination to break out of the Soviet Union; the yellow-power Manila revolutionaries who overthrew Ferdinand Marcos and the orange-jack victory of Viktor Yushchenko's pro-Western Ukrainians.

The one difference is that, for the brave Iraqis, they had 150,000 Americans nearby; for the others, they were on their own, more or less.

The American troops and their allies went to Iraq as part of the war on terrorism and

stayed to make the Iraqi election possible. The war has been less about the war on terrorism and more about the liberation and democratization of Iraq. It has become a war about winning freedom for the families of another nation.

Yet, more than 1,400 Americans have died in Iraq, more than 900 in the last year.

There are not adequate words to say they are the real heroes of the Iraq election.

John Hall is the senior Washington correspondent of Media General News Service.

When robots kill in war, humanity gets no peace

BY DAVID L. ULIN

Late last week, in a parking lot in New Jersey, the U.S. Army unveiled what may be the future of war: 3-foot-tall robot "soldiers," outfitted with tank tracks, night vision and mounted automatic weapons capable of firing more than 300 rounds at a burst.

Known as SWORDS (Special Weapons Observation Reconnaissance Detection Systems), these battle bots are on the leading edge of new kind of warfare, in which it's not so much the argument goes — our troops will one day remain hidden (and, presumably, protected) while engaging the enemy by remote control. The Army intends to deploy 18 SWORDS units to Iraq in the spring, marking the first time robots have been used to fight and kill human beings one on one.

If, like me, you grew up on science fiction, the idea of robot soldiers strikes a chilling chord. Killer droids, after all, have long been speculative-universe staples, potent symbols of the dangers of technology, of what happens when machines go wrong. In Karel Capek's 1920 play "R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)" — which introduced "robot" to the vernacular — automatons rise up to wipe out the human race. In "Blade Runner," reengineered cyborgs stage a bloody mutiny and flee to Earth. Robotic armies rampage through the screen in George Lucas' "Star Wars" films.

And then, of course, there is the "Terminator" series, in which robots designed to look and smell like people infiltrate human encampments to execute rebel leaders without mercy or remorse. This is the cybernetic future at its most apocalyptic: a world in which our high-tech weapons turn on us, just as we always feared they would.

The fear resonates. Why else would SWORDS designers feel compelled to reas-

sure us, as they did last week, that their robots are not autonomous terminators, but function only at the command of humans, who must identify targets via video before giving the electronic OK to shoot? On a certain level, the developers of SWORDS make a valid argument: These are not smart weapons, but surrogates for soldiers in the field.

It's hard to quarrel with any tool that might make our soldiers safer and, if nothing else, a robot warrior will never have to worry about inadequate armor or supplies.

Yet something more disturbing is at work, a sense of willful disassociation, as if, with enough distance, we might remove ourselves from what war is. Here too the military mimics Hollywood. For "Star Wars," it's been reported, storytellers relied on battle bots to take the blood out of the on-screen killing and render moral questions moot.

A similar logic fuels the ban on photos of flag-draped coffins — if we don't see them, they're not there — and it's no stretch to suggest that SWORDS, and other high-tech weapons now being developed by the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, will further sanitize our point of view.

What can't be sanitized, however, is the robot's deadly efficiency: remove the human from the weapon, and problems like recoil and breath control are eliminated, allowing the robot to hit a nickel-sized target at 328 yards. In one test, a SWORDS scored 70 out of 70 bull's-eyes.

Thirty or so years ago, the composer John Cage proposed a different sort of battle strategy: Take the heads of warring nations, give each a 50-pound sack of horse manure, lock them in a room, and let them fight it out. It's a quixotic notion, but at least it takes into ac-

count a human element, the idea that war cannot be waged without a price.

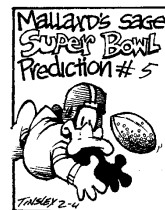
As for the SWORDS units, what does it say about us that this is how we use our creativity — to invent robots that do more efficient ways to kill? How can we be so disconnected that we refer to people as "targets," whether they are enemies or civilians, too indistinct to identify through the garble of a video display? Surely we lose something by all this disengagement.

It's easy to be ruthless from a distance; less so when you see the whites of someone's eyes. If there's no potential for human cost, how do we calculate our humanity, how do we show anything resembling restraint? And without restraint, are we even fully human anymore?

David L. Ulin is the author of "The Myth of Solid Ground: Earthquakes, Prediction, and the Fault Line Between Reason and Faith." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



In 2007, all revenue from Super Bowl 41 will be donated to countries that hate us, in hopes that they'll like us.



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Clinic in trouble

ID BONNERS FERRY — In 18 months, a mobile health clinic has provided basic medical care and dentistry to more than 2,500 low-income northern Idaho residents. Now the program's federal grant is set to expire and its organizers are asking three community clinics to take over the project.

Grave holdup

VA ALEXANDRIA — An elderly man was robbed while visiting his wife's grave, Fairfax County police said.

The 83-year-old victim was robbed after removing a wreath from his wife's grave at the National Memorial Gardens on Lee Highway.

The robber shoved something into the victim's back and demanded he be taken somewhere to get money. The victim tried to hit his attacker but was overpowered and pushed to the ground. The victim was forced into the car, where he gave the robber some cash. The robber got out and ran away.

Man giving away arcade

NH CLAREMONT — A local businessman is so set on seeing the city center revitalized, he wants to give away his 6-week-old video arcade to free himself up to start another business.

Nick Koloski says he wants to hand over the keys to Jester's Court, and he doesn't want a penny for it.

Koloski says his plan is to sign over the lease to someone interested in running the shop. The space is rented, as are most of the video games, so the new owner would assume the expenses.

Koloski says his goal is to have a hand in filling the remaining empty storefronts in downtown Claremont, and he doesn't want to be committed to one business while trying to do that.

Elephant stomps trainer

IN FORT WAYNE — An elephant being loaded onto a truck trampled a circus animal trainer to death at Memorial Coliseum, police said.

Three handlers were loading the elephants when the elephant crushed the man, who was found later by a Coliseum worker. He died from blunt force trauma to the chest at a hospital a few hours after being found, police said.

Police said they did not know how many times the elephant stepped on the man, whose name was not released.

Pooh royalties suit

CA LOS ANGELES — The family that owns the U.S. marketing rights to Winnie the Pooh will appeal a judge's dismissal of its long-running royalties dispute with The Walt Disney Co., an attorney for the family said.

"We do think that the judge's ruling was incorrect," attorney Steven Sherr said.

In March, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Charles McCoy threw out the case brought by Stephen

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Slesinger Inc., ruling the company illegally obtained confidential documents from Disney offices and trash.

The judge dismissed the 13-year-old lawsuit with prejudice, meaning the company cannot sue again on the claim that Disney owed millions of dollars in royalties for Pooh movies released on DVD.

Paramedics suspended

NC RALEIGH — Two paramedics who mistakenly declared an accident victim dead had their credentials suspended.

Paramedics Wade Kearney II and Paul Kilmer had their credentials suspended for rules violations, according to the state Office of Emergency Medical Service. They are among four paramedics who have been suspended with pay.

Larry Green, 29, was struck by a car and pronounced dead at the scene. Two hours later, a medical examiner at the morgue saw Green take a shallow breath and realized he was alive. Green remains in critical condition.

Arrest in actress's death

NY NEW YORK — A 19-year-old Staten Island man was arrested and charged in the murder of an aspiring actress on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

During an arraignment, Rudy Fleming was charged with murder.



Praying for homeless

Matthew Tarlecki, a Buddhist student, prays during the Covenant of Compassion rally in San Francisco. Participants carried crosses bearing the names of homeless people who perished on the streets of San Francisco in 2004.

der, robbery, attempted robbery and weapons possession. He was remanded with a court date set for Tuesday, prosecutors said.

Calls to Fleming's attorney, Dennis Murphy, were not immediately returned.

Assistant District Attorney Robert Hettelman said Fleming could face life in prison and possibly the death penalty, if convicted.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Education act aids pupils

HI HONOLULU — The No Child Left Behind Act let almost 700 students transfer to better schools last fall, education officials said. That's up from about 150 the previous year. The act allows low-income students to leave schools posting low standardized test scores for at least two years in a row.

Family offers reward

ND BISMARCK — Family members of a slain couple are offering a \$5,000 reward in the case, saying they have lost confidence in state authorities investigating the deaths.

The slayings of Norman and Yvonne Olson have puzzled officials from the start. Norman, 73, and Yvonne, 69, disappeared on Aug. 14, leaving behind cash, credit cards, and food on the kitchen counter.

No trace of them was found until early November, when an off-duty police officer discovered the bodies while hunting northwest of Hettinger. Authorities have said they are unsure if anyone other than the couple was involved in the slayings.

The Olson family has issued a statement saying, "Investigators prejudged the case very early on as a murder-suicide, despite unanswered questions and details to the contrary, and that this bias has hindered a thorough investigation of all possibilities."

Spelling bee back on

RI LINCOLN — School officials have reversed their decision keeping students out of a statewide spelling bee, which they had decided to skip due in part to concerns about the children's feelings.

Lincoln's four elementary schools and its middle school will hold school spelling bees, and the winners will face off in a district-wide bee, the school department said.

"It's something that a lot of people have an interest in doing, so we're going to do it," said Schools Superintendent John Tindall-Gibson.

After last year's spelling bee, school principals indicated they didn't want to take part again. They told the assistant superintendent they felt the bee hurt children's self-esteem, and conflicted with the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind education law because it didn't allow all students to succeed.



She does windows

Abby Garner, aquarist for the National at Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, cleans the windows of a large fish tank.



He'll grow into it

Jared Gilson, 3, tries to throw a football while wearing a full-sized uniform at the NFL Experience in Jacksonville, Fla.



Strawberry Hill topped High atop the Cruise-Scroggs Mansion on Strawberry Hill, roofers Larry Brown, left, and Peadar O'Neill pause as they finished a section of the roof in Kansas City, Kan. The Queen Anne-style mansion, built in 1887, houses the Strawberry Hill Museum and Cultural Center.



A tough start A newborn Angolan Colobus monkey at the Abilene Zoo rests against a stuffed animal inside an incubator on loan from Abilene Regional Medical Center in Texas. The female monkey was delivered through a Caesarean section and needed an incubator because her mother was rejecting her.



Need dinner company?

Looking for a meal of bait or leftover fish, a sea lion climbs on board a boat at the Petro Marine dock in Kodiak, Alaska.



Happy birthday Rudy, a gorilla at the Erie Zoo in Erie, Pa., turned 49 this week. Rudy is believed to be the oldest captive lowland gorilla in the world, according to the International Species Information System.



Night lights Car headlights from commuters entering Decatur, Ala., reflect off the waters of the Tennessee River. The commuters are driving south on the Highway 31 causeway.

South Shore shooting

MA RANDOLPH — A man was shot and killed outside a South Shore dance club in what authorities called the town's first street killing in more than a decade.

Joseph Lopes, 23, was shot after he left the Copu Grande when the club closed, Norfolk District Attorney William Keating said.

Lion-cub grabbers fined

CO ESTES PARK — A 65-pound mountain lion cub — guessed to be about 4 or 5 months old — was picked up by three friends on the way home from dinner.

When they saw the cub, "It looked up as if to say, 'Help me,'" said one of the men, Jason Lee Laird, 21.

They decided to take the animal to a veterinary clinic. En route, they flagged down a Boulder County sheriff's deputy, and a wildlife officer was called.

The sheriff's deputy told the men he smelled marijuana. Laird suggested it was because the cat had relieved itself in the back of his Jeep, but he and one of his friends were ultimately ticketed after Deputy Jeff Canton told them, "Mountain lions don't smoke marijuana," according to the incident report.

The cub had to be euthanized later, wildlife officials said.

Competition aids drivers

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire drivers are benefiting from increased competition among auto insurers, officials say. Seven of 11 auto insurance companies that have filed rate change requests with the state so far this year have asked for decreases.

That compares with five of 25 in 2004 and none the year before, according to the state Department of Insurance.

Concerns over e-mail use

AR LITTLE ROCK — Some House members say their colleagues should refrain from reading e-mail during legislative debate to focus on the discussion.

House Speaker Bill Stovall says he wants legislators to be able to use laptops in chambers to check on pertinent bills. But he's concerned about legislators being distracted from floor debate by e-mails from constituents, journalists and others.

Law comes with price

KY LOUISVILLE — A Jefferson Circuit judge is giving Louisville's adult businesses until March 9 to comply with a strict new adult entertainment law, providing they post a \$25,000 bond.

That will give the case a chance to reach the state Court of Appeals. The ordinance prohibits nudity, requires adult entertainment businesses to close by 1 a.m. and stipulates that dancers to remain at least 6 feet from patrons.

Where the buffalo roam

SD RAPID CITY — A buffalo that escaped from an auction ended up in a dressing room at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, where it spent a couple of hours staring into a mirror.

The buffalo jumped over a steel panel Sunday morning during the Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, went down an alley and got into the dressing room reserved for visiting sports teams, said Brian Maliske, the civic center's general manager.

"The door happened to be unlocked and he pushed the door open and went in," Maliske said.

Once the sale ended, a rodeo crewmember coaxed the buffalo out of the dressing room and back into captivity.

Too close for comfort

OH TOLEDO — About one in four registered sex offenders in Lucas County lives closer to a school than allowed by state law, The Blade newspaper reported.

Sex offenders aren't supposed to live within 1,000 feet of a school, but police officers say it can be difficult to get a court order to force offenders to move.

No more weather man

ND WILLISTON — The National Weather Service says a technology upgrade at its station here will allow warnings and other reports to go on the air quicker. A computer-generated voice system will read the Williston station's radio broadcasts.

Meteorologist Rick Krolak said the Williston station was the last in the country to abandon broadcasts read by people.

Mom jailed over fines

TX ANGLETON — Susan Manis was surprised when two Brazoria County deputies showed up at her home with a warrant for her arrest.

Manis said she was handcuffed, put in a patrol car and taken to jail. "I just cried at first," she said.

Her husband, Steve, contacted a judge, who called the jail and ordered her release.

The warrant stemmed from Manis missing a monthly payment on fees and fines levied against one of her sons when he was a juvenile.

"I accepted responsibility for that," said Manis, who agreed in court to make a payment.

An unwelcome surprise

NY CENTER MORICHES — Christopher MORICHES' father Paul, 77, died at Central Suffolk Hospital last week. The hospital was supposed to have turned his belongings over to Sinnickson's Moriches Funeral Home, which in turn gave the bag to Runyan's wife, Andrea.

But Runyan later smelled a foul stench coming from the bag and when he opened it, he discovered a leg with a toe tag attached. At first he thought it was his father's because he had an arm amputated in an attempt to save him.

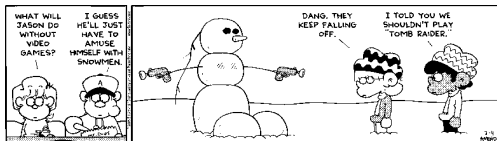
But a blue toe tag attached to the leg indicated it belonged to a completely different person.

"The stench that came out almost knocked me over," Runyan told the Daily News. "I turned totally white."

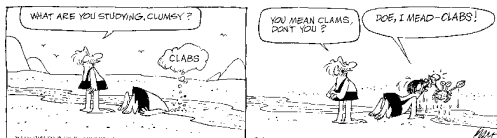
Suffolk County police Sgt. George Kelly said Tuesday that investigators determined that the leg belonged to a patient who died Jan. 13. "We believe it was just a case of human error," Kelly said.

Photos and stories from wire reports

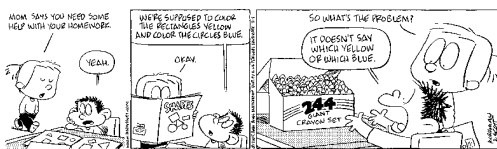
Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



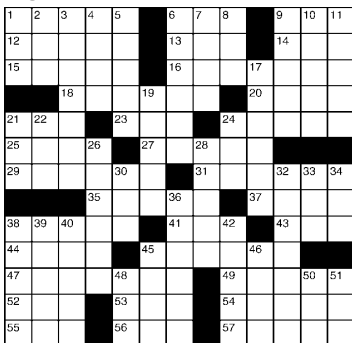
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



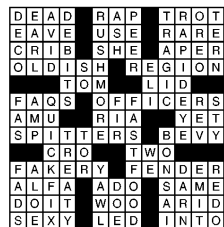
Across

- 1 Discontinuance
- 6 Spigot
- 9 Bleacherites' cry
- 12 Use
- 13 Spanish 9-Across?
- 14 Praise in verse
- 15 Cleopatra's carrier
- 16 Contradiction
- 18 Points of view
- 20 Dijon daddy
- 21 Tummy muscles
- 23 Tibetan beast
- 24 Fair
- 25 Origin
- 27 Promenade
- 29 He was Doc Ock in "Spider-Man 2"
- 31 Big East team
- 35 Barbershop need
- 37 \$50, in "Monopoly"
- 38 Rot
- 41 Scott Joplin's style
- 43 Ump
- 44 "The Good Earth" heroine
- 45 Music-biz bribery
- 47 Ideal
- 49 Indulges in brooding
- 52 Greek vowel
- 53 Early bird?
- 54 "If... Wuz there was"
- 55 Congeal

Down

- 1 Dr. Jekyll's workplace
- 2 Ms. Gardner
- 3 Sunshade
- 4 Portent
- 5 Song of sorrow
- 6 Kansas River city
- 7 Remark re Yorick
- 8 Apiece
- 9 Calgary Stampede, e.g.
- 10 Decorate
- 11 Under a bad spell
- 17 Poise
- 19 Bolivian city
- 21 Branch
- 22 Greet the bad guy
- 24 Spellbound
- 26 Albania's capital
- 28 Wander off
- 30 Yea undoer
- 32 Raised wall of a castle
- 33 Phony story
- 34 Will Ferrell movie
- 36 Vitamin C source
- 38 Figures (out)
- 39 Cheer up
- 40 Weight measurement
- 42 Thorn in Sgt. Carter's side
- 45 Walt Kelly comic strip
- 46 Nil, to Novotna
- 48 Ritzy rock
- 50 Mess up
- 51 Put into words

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-4

CRYPTOQUIP

L E C R Y K K P U C A N V S Z V P
Q C E V C V Q S P Z K Z A P P K Y P,
I R V X C R ' K T S C I Z I Y X
U L N N V Q P T C L A V.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN AN ASTRONOMER WORKS SOMEWHERE ELSE AT NIGHT, I TAKE IT HE'S MOONLIGHTING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals S

Thoughtful rabbi brightens spirits

Dear Abby: After reading the letters about hospital gowns, I thought I'd share my story. I am a rabbi. When I first trained as a chaplain, I was taught to make my hospital rounds in full dress — wearing a suit and tie, with my jacket buttoned. However, one day a patient expressed that although she needed to talk to me, she felt terribly uncomfortable lying there in a hospital gown with her tuchas sticking out while I sat there in a three-piece suit.

I stood up, told her I'd be back in a moment, went to the nurse's station and got a hospital gown. I took off my suit, donned the gown over my briefs and T-shirt, and headed straight back to the patient's room. The minute she saw me in that gown, she brightened and relaxed enough to open up about all the concerns on her mind.

The visit took a little longer than usual, and when I finished our session with a prayer for

healing, I rose from the chair. As I did, the sound as my thighs ripped themselves from the Naugahyde brought a huge smile to both our faces. I was laughing so hard I forgot to hold the back of the gown as I headed back down the hall — so I was exposed.

Dear Abby



Fortunately, the nurses had a sense of humor. One said, "Not a bad tush for a rabbi!"

I learned an important lesson on creativity that day.

But I also learned that those hospital gowns are better than one — if you remember to put one on backward.

— Rabbi Craig H. Eizinger, Boca Raton, Fla.

Dear Rabbi Eizinger: Your suit may have been off for her, but *my* hat is off to you for going the extra mile to make a difference in a sick woman's life. Your method may have been unorthodox, but your message of healing far surpassed any fashion statement.

Lack of contact with family their loss

Dear Annie: I've been married for over 15 years and have two children, one of whom is autistic and nonverbal. We have worked so hard to make life "normal" for my children despite many strange looks, ignorant comments and lost friendships.

What I'm having a hard time with now is my in-laws. Four years ago, they totally banned us from their lives because of our son. My husband's brother was married around the same time, and although my in-laws see him and his children numerous times every year, they find weak excuses not to visit us.

I feel terrible for my children and my husband, although he sees nothing wrong with his parents' behavior. We've tried talking with my in-laws, educating them, reasoning with them, even begging them, but nothing has changed. They send cards and money for birthdays and

Annie's Mailbox



holidays, but that's it. There is no real love.

— Feeling Betrayed

Dear Betrayed: Your in-laws have already given up on your behalf.

If cards and money are their only method of communication, accept it as such, and don't expect more. As long as this doesn't seem to bother your

husband, there's no reason you should make any greater effort to involve grandparents who don't wish to be part of your children's lives. It is truly their loss. How sad.

Dear Annie: I am extremely dissatisfied with life. I am very intelligent, but I never have been able to finish my education. I have a terrible problem with math and always have had a problem concentrating. I am very easily distracted. I think I may have adult Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

Dear Abby: My husband of 21 years, "Robert," made me a wonderful dinner, made love with me, and then — instead of sweet dreams — he served me with divorce papers. He treats me like a princess, but the divorce is still going through.

Robert says we have nothing in common and no longer think alike.

I am confused. He tells our adult children he "loves me dearly" but will never be truly happy with me. However, he won't let go emotionally. I am still in love with him. Can you please tell me what's the right thing for me to do?

— Hurt in California

Dear Hurt: The right thing to do is find a therapist who can help you make sense of what has happened, help you to heal the wounds of this divorce, and go on with your life.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

I am in my 40s, and have had too many jobs to keep track of. I bounce from place to place. I have tried many different things, but nothing holds my interest for very long. I get bored and I need to move on, which, of course, doesn't help.

Do you know where I can get more information about ADD in adults? Is this something I could be tested for? Any information would be greatly appreciated.

— Can't Sit Still in the Midwest

Dear Can't Sit Still: The main symptoms of adult ADD are distractibility, impulsivity and restlessness. Talk to your doctor about being tested for adult ADD, and discuss with him or her the available treatment options. For more information and a self-administered questionnaire, try the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (<http://www.add.org>) at P.O. Box 543, Pottstown, PA 19404.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to: anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RINPT

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FEBOG

BAGLEM

ENMIRE

www.jumble.com

A: FOR

Yesterday's Jumbles SINGE CABIN UPSHOT RADIUS

Answer: What the deep-voiced guy turned into when he joined the prison quartet — A STRIPED "BASS"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

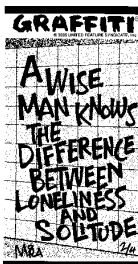
(Answers tomorrow)

Family Circus



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"You better eat more, Sam, or you'll never grow big like Marmaduke."



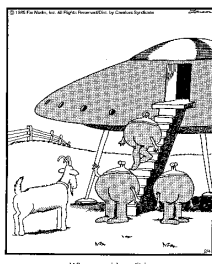
Dennis the Menace



"HEY, MOM! HOW COME ALL OF THE BABY SITTER NAMES ARE CRISPER OFFER?"

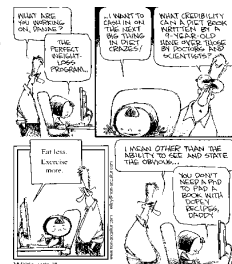
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



When words collide

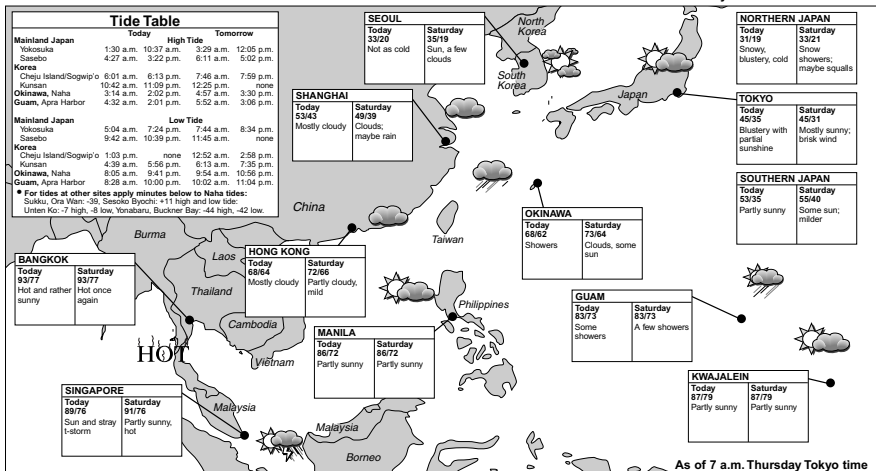
Non Sequiter



The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

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Coach news seen to distract Lakers

L.A. tops Portland despite Tomjanovich reports

Caron Butler and Chuck Atkins put on a performance that would make Rudy Tomjanovich proud. Maybe they thought it would help persuade their ailing coach to remain with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Butler had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Atkins added 19 points and eight assists to lead the Lakers over the Portland Trail Blazers 92-79 on Tuesday night, hours after learning Tomjanovich might resign for health reasons.

"I'm a Rudy Tomjanovich fan. I hope he comes back—the sooner, the better," Atkins said. "Right now, he's still our coach. Everything else is just speculation. We expect him to come back and lead us to where we want to be."

Tomjanovich, who returned to coaching this season after recovering from bladder cancer, missed his second straight game because of what the Lakers said was a stomach virus. Team spokesman John Black said Tomjanovich also had a sinus infection.

On Wednesday, Tomjanovich resigned, citing health concerns.

Assistant coach Frank Hamblen, the only holdover from former coach Phil Jackson's staff, has led the Lakers to a pair of victories in Tomjanovich's absence.

Adam Odom scored 25 points for the Blazers, who improved to 5-4 since Kobe Bryant sprained his right ankle Jan. 13 in a victory over Cleveland.

Damon Stoudamire scored 25 points, Rubin Patterson added 20 and Nick Van Exel had 18 for the Blazers, who lost for the 14th time in 18 games.

Portland's Zach Randolph, averaging a team-leading 19.9 points, missed all 12 of his shots in going scoreless while playing 29 minutes.

Magie 105, Cavaliers 102: Steve Francis scored 30 points and tied a season high with 13 assists, spoiling LeBron James' return from a sprained ankle.

Grant Hill scored 21 for the Magic, who have won seven of eight home games. James finished with 28 points, seven assists and five rebounds. The Cavaliers split their two games during his absence.

Jeff McInnis appeared to send the game into overtime with a buzzer-beating three-pointer, but the officials

NBA roundup

Knicks 108, Nets 97: At Memphis, Tenn., Jason Williams had 31 points, five assists and five rebounds for the Nets, who won their season-high fourth in a row.

Kidd had 26 points, 13 rebounds and 19 assists, and Vince Carter had 31 points, five assists and five rebounds in a close overtime win.

Pistons 105, Wizards 96: At Washington, Chauncey Billups scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and Detroit closed with a 20-11 run to win its fourth straight. Tayshaun Prince added 25 points.

Grizzlies 106, Suns 97: At Memphis, Tenn., Jason Williams had 31 points and eight assists for the short-handed Grizzlies, who shot 12-for-23 from three-point range in ending the Suns' five-game winning streak. Memphis has won three straight and five of six. Suns guard Steve Nash was ejected with 3:05 left.

Mavericks 109, Heat 104: Dirk Nowitzki and Jerry Stackhouse got rolling in the final five minutes, just about the time the Mavericks' defense found a way to throttle Shaquille O'Neal and visiting Miami.

Two straight baskets by Stackhouse and a jumper by Nowitzki got Dallas within one. Another jumper by Stackhouse put the Mavericks ahead 99-98, and they never gave up the lead.

Stackhouse led Dallas with 24 points, and Nowitzki added 19.

Bucks 91, Timberwolves 86: Michael Redd scored 19 points, Joe Smith added 17 and the Bucks held off visiting Minnesota.

Toni Kukoc provided a huge lift with nine points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals in his first start in almost three seasons for the Bucks, who had lost 10 straight to the Timberwolves.

Bobcats 109, Jazz 105: Gerald Wallace scored 28 points and helped rally Charlotte from an 11-point deficit



Trail Blazers' Zach Randolph loses control of the ball as he drives against the Lakers' Lamar Odom on Tuesday night.

to the second row win in time for Brevin Knight added 21 points and eight assists.

Nuggets 96, Knicks 76: Kenyon Martin scored a season-high 27 points, Carmelo Anthony added 23 and the Nuggets earned their third consecutive victory under new coach George Karl.

Martin shot 11-for-17 to help Karl win his home debut in Denver.

SuperSonics 106, Kings 101: At Sacramento, Calif., Ronald Murray scored a season-high 23 points in place of ailing All-Star Ray Allen, who missed his second straight game with the flu.

Rashard Lewis had 24 points for the Northwest Division-leading Sonics, who defeated without coach Nate McMillan following the death of his mother.

Sacramento forwards Peja Stojakovic and Chris Webber weren't in uniform because of injuries.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Philadelphia	21	23	.477
Boston	21	24	.467
New Jersey	19	26	.420
New York	18	27	.400
Toronto	18	27	.400
Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	33	14	.700
Washington	26	18	.591
Orlando	25	20	.556
Charlotte	32	23	.583
Atlanta	9	34	.209
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Detroit	27	18	.600
Cleveland	26	18	.591
Chicago	22	21	.512
Indiana	20	23	.464
Milwaukee	16	27	.370

Tomjanovich resigns as coach of Lakers

Health concerns cited as reason

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Rudy Tomjanovich resigned as coach of the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday, citing health concerns brought on by the job.

"There are no outside influences, be it pressure from above, anything to do with my players or being here in Los Angeles," he said. "This is all about me and how I'm wired. Nobody put pressure on me but me."

Tomjanovich, 56, went 22-19 in his first season as Phil Jackson's successor and with a revamped lineup built around Kobe Bryant. Assistant coach Frank Hamblen led the Lakers to a 2-0 record when Tomjanovich missed their past two games because of a stomach virus and a sinus infection.

General manager Mitch Kupchak said Hamblen would stay on indefinitely as interim coach.

After victories, Tomjanovich said he would celebrate with a dinner of steak and fries, but the grueling feeding in his stomach always returned by the time he finished his meal.

"I just kept wearing on me and wearing on me and my resistance got low. It hurt my health," he said, clearly subdued. "Maybe I'm an old general that needs to get his butt off the front line and do something else."

Tomjanovich, who led the Houston Rockets to NBA titles in 1994 and 1995, returned to coaching after recovering from bladder cancer.

He said that he began wearing down mentally and physically about a month ago.

"I went from this energetic, pumped-up guy to being sapped of a lot of energy," Tomjanovich said, adding that he takes antibiotics regularly now. "It just seems like I got deeper into not feeling good. Why this happened now and why my body couldn't take it, I do not have the answer."

Tomjanovich said the Lakers offered him a consulting position for two years, which he planned to accept.

He denied that his resignation was prompted by any conflict with owner Jerry Buss or injured superstar Bryant.

"I took on too much responsibility," Tomjanovich said. "I couldn't shut it off when I was away from the arena. I didn't do a good job of having other outlets to get rid of some of those feelings and it built up in my body."

Tomjanovich's decision stunned players and the front office, which now must now look for a successor.

"We'll have to just kind of go from there," Bryant said before Tuesday's 92-79 victory over Portland. "But our main concern is him as a person."

"The other day at practice when we saw him, he looked kind of disheveled a little bit and everybody was concerned. I went up and talked to him and called him the next day to see how he was doing."

Bryant sprained his right ankle Jan. 13 and hasn't played since.

The Lakers are 5-4 without Bryant.

Tomjanovich signed a \$30 million, five-year contract last summer and replaced Jackson, who left at the end of last season.



Illinois' Luther Head, left, drives against Michigan State's Kelvin Torbert in the second half on Tuesday. Head led Illinois with 22 points.

No. 1 Illinois passes Michigan State test

The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State coach Tom Izzo knows what it takes to win a national championship.

After watching No. 1 Illinois roll past his 12th-ranked team 81-68 on Tuesday night to remain undefeated, Izzo thinks the Illini could win it all.

"They have the ingredients to win a national championship," said Izzo, who led the Spartans to the title five years ago.

The Illini (22-0, 8-0 Big Ten) want to win it all, but insist they're not thinking about that right now or even about going into the NCAA tournament next month without a loss.

Instead, they are focused on playing well in every game.

"We've got to play at a special level every night, or we're going to lose. We know that," said De Brown, who scored 18 points.

"We know that, but I don't think the pressure is really on us because there are people who say we're going to lose. They can't wait to say, 'I told you so!'"

Illinois' next game is against Indiana on Sunday at home. Its remaining road games are at Michigan, Penn State and Iowa with home dates against Wisconsin, Northwestern and Purdue before the Big Ten tournament.

In each game, the nation will be watching the Illini to see if anybody can beat them, and Illinois coach Bruce Weber said his players are ready for the scrutiny.

"They like the limelight. They kind care it," Weber said. "Some of it is Dave's personality that rubs off on the rest of them. I don't think Luther [Head] was like that a year ago, but now he likes it, too."

"Our kids have a great competitive spirit. They have a huge will to win."

The only other unbeaten team in Division I, No. 5 Boston College kept pace with a 62-50 victory over West Virginia on Tuesday.

Luther Head scored 22 points to lead Illinois, which handed Michigan State (14-4, 5-2) its 12th straight loss against a ranked opponent, dating to the regional finals of the 2003 NCAA tournament.

"I'm a killer," said Alan Anderson, who scored 14 points. "This really, really hurts."

Illinois put on a clinic on of-

ense, with great spacing, unselfish passing and fabulous shooting.

The open man takes the open shot," Head said. "That's what we live by."

The Illini made 13 of 24 three-pointers and during a 12-minute span in the second half, they made 12 shots in a row.

On the other end of the court, the Illini wouldn't let Michigan State get much done because they seemed to have their bodies, arms or hands in every passing lane. The Spartans had 13 turnovers, one was unforgotten.

"We disrupted some of their stuff," Weber said.

Michigan State's Paul Davis and Shannon Brown each scored 12 points while Maurice Ager and reserve Kelvin Torbert both had 10.

Illinois led by 17 midway through the second half and was ahead 73-58 with 6:37 to go before the Spartans rallied to avoid a rout.

They pulled within seven twice, but the second time, Brown ended their comeback hopes with a three-point play on a driving layup that left him crumpled up against the basket support with 1:56 left.

No. 5 Boston College 62, West Virginia 50: Craig Smith scored 23 points and the last Eagles (19-0, 8-0 Big East) matched the longest winning streak in school history, set in 1968-69.

West Virginia got within 4-38 with 8:27 remaining, but the Eagles went on a 12-3 run that tied it 54-41 with 3:10 to go. Jared Dudley, who scored 15 points, and Jermaine Watson, who has 13, each had four points in the run.

If the Eagles win Tuesday night at Seton Hall, they'll become the first Big East team to start a season 20-0.

Clemson 88, No. 22 Maryland 73: At Clemson, S.C., Sharrod Ford tied his career high with 25 points and the Tigers (11-10, 2-7 Atlantic Coast Conference) snapped a 13-game losing streak against a Maryland.

John Gilchrist had 18 points for the visiting Terrapins (13-6, 4-4), who missed their final 13 shots of the half and fell behind 45-29.

9-footers creates a buzz

BY HANK KURZ JR.

The Associated Press

It was a baseball throw by a former quarterback on a basketball court and one Golden State's Jordan Snipes has a career highlight he doesn't expect to top.

The 6-foot-4 sophomore rebounded a missed free throw with 0.6 seconds on the clock Monday night, wheeled around and threw a shot that swished through after the buzzer sounded, giving the Quakers a 91-89 overtime victory against Randolph-Macon.

"I think that'll be my highlight," a weary Snipes said Tuesday afternoon, when he'd only slept for about 90 minutes since the miracle shot. "I thought if I went to sleep that it was just going to turn into a dream and when I woke up it'd be over."

Snipes was hoping to grab the rebound and knock quickly against a Yellow Jackets player hoping to draw a "cheap foul," he said. But then he heard the Randolph-Macon coaches tell the players to back away from the line when the shot went up.

"When they did that, I couldn't get in a ready position in six-tenths of a second, so I just took the ball and threw it," he said. "I didn't know what else to do."

The 30-point jumper, career-best 34-point night for Snipes, who made six of seven three-point tries. And if that wasn't enough, he also had a 36-foot shot, validation that college athletes crave: recognition on SportsCenter's Top Ten plays of the day.

In fact, his play made it five times.

Several players were on cell phones on the bus back to North Carolina, but Snipes was the one about to air. Snipes said. His brother told him the play was No. 9.

"We were like, 'That's pretty cool. No. 9. At least we're on there,'" he said. "And then they said, 'You're No. 7! You're No. 5! And 3 and 1!'" It was incredible.

Guilford coach Tom Palombo has coached for 15 years and said he's never seen anything like the "buzzer beating" shot unfolded at Crenshaw Gymnasium.

In fact, Palombo already was walking toward Randolph-Macon coach Mike Kneib to shake hands and congratulate the shot, but he caught their attention.

"I remember thinking it looked like it had a chance, and when it went through the hoop, I thought," he said. "When the referee came and said it was good, I kind of jumped up and down when I was right next to it. I was excited," he said. "I told him I was sorry."

"It was hard to control your emotions on a play like that."

Rhodes told Adam Kovic to miss the second free throw on purpose, following the conventional wisdom that six-tenths of a second is not a lot of time to do something.

He realized there might be trouble when he saw the ball in flight. "When it got to the halfcourt, I said, 'That's going to be something,'" he said, adding almost apologetically that the shot clock should have expired before the shot.

"The guy just made an incredible play," Rhodes said.

Kings opt to retain Adelman through '06

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento Kings exercised their one-year option on coach Rick Adelman on Tuesday, keeping him under contract through next season.

Even though Adelman has taken the Kings to the playoffs every season since coming to Sacramento in 1998, owners Joe and Gabe Roth wanted to see how the team started this season before deciding whether to pick up his option for 2005-06.

A solid start — Sacramento is 30-13 — despite several injuries was enough to earn Adelman another year.

Adelman's assistant coaches also will be retained, the team said.

McMillan to return on Sunday SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Coach Nate McMillan is scheduled to rejoin the Seattle SuperSonics for practice Sunday following

NBA briefs

ing the funeral of his mother this week in North Carolina.

The memorial service is Friday, but McMillan will miss Seattle's home game Saturday against Charlotte. Jeannette Tyson, 62, died last Sunday.

McMillan is in Raleigh, N.C., dealing with family issues, and four-year associate head coach Dwane Casey is running the team in McMillan's absence.

Warriors' Robinson suspended

NEW YORK — Clifford Robinson of the Golden State Warriors was suspended for five games without pay Tuesday for violating the NBA's drug policy.

Robinson's suspension begins with Wednesday night's game against the Sacramento Kings.

A 16-year veteran, Robinson averaged 8.8 points and 2.6 rebounds in 40 games this season.

Sosa's awaited trade to Orioles is finalized

Cubs sign OF Burnitz to one-year deal

By David Ginsburg

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Sammy Sosa will be taking aim at American League pitchers and the short left-field wall at Camden Yards this summer.

The trade that sent Sosa to the Baltimore Orioles from the Chicago Cubs was finalized Wednesday after Commissioner Bud Selig approved the deal and the slugger passed a physical.

Chicago will pay \$12 million of Sosa's salary this year and receive second baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. and two minor leaguers, second baseman Mike Fontenot and right-handed pitcher Dave Crouthers.

The man nicknamed "Slammin' Sammy," whose 574 home runs rank seventh on baseball's career list, endeavored himself to Cubs fans when he hit 66 homers in 1999 during a duel with Mark McGwire that reached the national stage. Sosa maintained his popularity and sweet home run swing for three years after that, but his rapport with the team and its rabid fans began to sour in 2003, when he was suspended for seven games for using a corked bat.

After a 2004 season in Sosa's batting average dipped to .253 and he walked out on the team before their final game, the Cubs began looking to deal the disgruntled star.

The Orioles were happy to comply, especially after Chicago offered to pay more than two-thirds of Sosa's 2005 salary. Sosa also made some concessions, in part because he was eager for a change in scenery.

Sosa's contract contained a provision that called for the \$18 million team option for 2006 to be automatically guaranteed if he was graded as a \$19 million team option for 2007 to be added, one that would have carried a \$4.5 million buyout. As part of the trade, Sosa signed an addendum to his contract voiding that provision.

The Cubs will end up paying \$62.5 million of the \$72 million Sosa was guaranteed in a four-year deal, with the Orioles paying \$9.5 million.

Given those numbers, and the fact that Hairston was a backup, the trade was an easy one for Baltimore to make.

The Orioles entered the offseason looking for a right-handed power hitter, and Sosa should provide some pop in the cleanup spot batting behind Miguel Tejada and ahead of Rafael Palmeiro and Javy Lopez.

Even though his bat isn't as potent as it was five years ago, the 36-year-old Sosa hit 35 homers in only 126 games last season.

Tejada led the Orioles with 34 home runs — in 162 games.

The Cubs, meanwhile, hope to make up for the loss of power in the lineup by signing free agent outfielder Jeremy Burnitz to a

one-year contract with a mutual option for 2006, a deal that guarantees him \$5 million. Chicago needed to wait for the Sosa deal to be completed before finalizing its deal with Burnitz, who hit .283 with 37 homers and 110 RBIs with Colorado in 2004.

Sosa's 35 homers last season were more than any Oriole hit in 2004, and his new teammates expect his bat to experience a revival this season.

"I'm looking for him to have a monster year," said Jay Gibbons, whom Sosa will replace in right field. "We needed a right-handed power hitter, and here's a guy who hit 35 despite missing time with a bad back. I'd say that makes the middle of the lineup pretty dangerous."

Orioles outfielder Larry Bigbie has spent much of the offseason in Indiana, about 20 minutes outside Chicago. He knows what Cubs fans think of Sosa, and he expects that opinion might change by July.

"I'm really happy to have him out of Chicago, and I'm happy to have him in Baltimore. I think he'll be a great addition to the team and to the city," Bigbie said. "I might end up cutting all the ties I have around the All-Star break and see how many want him back. Maybe all he needs is a clean slate."

Sosa has a history of answering challenges with big numbers, and Camden Yards might be the perfect spot for his new start. One of the cozier ballparks in the majors, it's the tailor-made for home.

"Sammy can hit home runs to left and right field one-handed in Camden Yards," said Steve Stone, who was the Cubs' television analyst for most of Sosa's career in Chicago. "Sammy's got a lot of home runs left to hit."

The Orioles began pursuit of Sosa after their failed bid to land free-agent first baseman Carlos Delgado. If Sosa returns to form, Baltimore won't have any regrets.

"When he's on his game, he's equal to Delgado," Bigbie said, "and it saves us money, too."

AP Sports Writers Nancy Amato in Chicago and Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

NCAA reforms look to take glitz out of recruiting trips

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As one of the top high school football players in the country, Dajaleen Farr took recruiting trips to LSU, Miami, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

He toured the campuses, checked out the facilities, met some of the players and coaches and got a 48-hour free life as a student-athlete at a football powerhouse.

But he didn't get to see his name in lights. As of last year, that's against the rules.

"I remember watching that in 'The Program,' and it was like, 'I can't wait until it's my turn to take my trip and I'll see my name on the scoreboard and get to run out on the field,'" said Farr, a tight end from Houston's North Shore High School.

High-profile scandals involving football recruits at Colorado and Miami prompted the NCAA to take what it called emergency action last summer.

No longer are schools allowed to two prospects with rock star treatment. Fancy hotels, ritzy restaurants and private planes are now off limits. So are personalized jerseys and the use of simulated game-day activities, like the ones Farr saw in the movie "The Program," a 1993 film about a fictitious scandal-ridden college football team.

The NCAA also now requires schools to file a written recruiting plan with their conference or the NCAA.

NCAA vice president David Berst, who chaired the panel that came up with the reforms, said the goal is to change the philosophy of recruiting and stamp out the "culture of entitlement," as NCAA President Miles Brand referred to it.

"I think it remains to be seen if it has any long-term benefit of reducing the celebrity of the recruiting weekends," Berst said.

"You shouldn't win the recruiting war by a lobster tail. You should win by an academic major, as foreign as that concept may be to some."

Nations' signing day was Wednesday.

American Football Coaches Association executive director Grant Teaff said most of the reforms have been well received by coaches.

"I haven't heard one word of complaint," he said.

Though we may get that after signing day.

He said many schools don't have the type of perks available to them — five-star hotels and restaurants, for example — that the NCAA outlawed using. But some do, and opposing coaches were happy to see the playing field leveled.

"I can't imagine offering our recruits five-star hotels or restaurants," new LSU coach Les Miles said.

"If staying where they have a hot tub in the room is important to them, this isn't the place for them."

New Mississippi coach Ed Orgerio was recruiting coordinator and defensive line coach for Southern California. He said the new restrictions did little to change how USC ran recruiting visits and he doesn't anticipate them being a problem at Ole Miss.

"I really feel there's more focus on the weekend on things that really matter, such as academics and athletics," he said.

Rutgers coach Greg Schiano was disappointed that he had to stop taking recruits on the Scarlet Walk, following the path the Scarlet Knights take on game day into the their new stadium, where the prospects' names would be displayed on the scoreboard.

"I think that's big, a kid getting a feel for being a part of the program for 48 hours," said Schiano, entering his fifth year with Rutgers.

Teaff said the reform that prompted the most protest from coaches was prohibiting college's from using chartered or private planes to transport recruits. About 35 Division I schools don't have a commercial airport nearby, Teaff said.

Hall of Famer Berra sues over 'Sex' ad

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hall of Famer Yogi Berra has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against TBS, claiming the cable television network sullied his name by using it in a raucy advertisement for its "Sex and the City" reruns.

Berra's papers, filed in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, say the Turner Broadcasting System Inc. ad, which has appeared on buses and in subways, caused "severe damage to his reputation" with its reference to Kim Cattrall's sexually promiscuous character, Samantha.

The offending ad, Berra's court papers say, queried readers about the definition of "yogasm."

Possible definitions: (a) a type of yo-yo trick, (b) sex with Yogi Berra and (c) what Samantha has with a guy from yoga class. The answer is (c).

The reference to the sexual act made in connection with Berra "engenders a moral taint that has damaged his otherwise spotless reputation," say his court papers, filed last week and posted on the smokinggun.com Web site.

The 79-year-old Berra "is a married man and has children and grandchildren," his court papers say. "He is a deeply religious man who has maintained and continues to maintain a moral lifestyle and has a spotless reputation for integrity, decency and moral character."

Berra's lawyer Lewis Smoley, said he was told TBS stopped running the ad last August. Nevertheless, he said, he wants the court to order the superstation to never run the ad again.

The Berra suit seeks \$5 million on each of two causes of action: commercial use of his name without permission and unjust enrichment by use of his name without permission.

A spokeswoman for TBS, based in Atlanta, said Tuesday: "We do not comment on litigation."

Berra, a catcher for the New York Yankees from 1946-63 who lives in Montclair, N.J., is one of baseball's most beloved and quotable characters.

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Neuheisel's 49ers interview called to question in court

Huskies' former athletic director testifies in former football coach's unfair dismissal suit

By TIM KORTE

The Associated Press

KENT, Wash. — Former Washington athletic director Barbara Hedges said Wednesday she was angry with Rick Neuheisel after he admitted, after days of denials, that he had interviewed for a job with the San Francisco 49ers.

The former Huskies coach is suing the university and NCAA over his June 2003 firing, which came four months after he met with former 49ers general manager Terry Donohue and even held preliminary contract negotiations by telephone.

Hedges testified for a third day in King County Superior Court, saying Neuheisel told her repeatedly from Feb. 6-12, 2003, that he wasn't interested in the 49ers job, nor was there any contact with the NFL team.

University lawyer Lou Peterson asked Hedges during cross-examination if Neuheisel disclosed in the first week of February 2003 that he had preliminary contract negotiations by telephone, discussing a proposed four- or five-year deal worth \$3 million a year.

"Absolutely not," Hedges said.

When Neuheisel was fired, Hedges said he had been warned about additional lies and cited his June 4, 2003, interview with NCAA investigators who were looking into the coach's high-stakes gambling on NCAA basketball.

The coach initially told investigators

he never placed a bet but later, after consulting with a lawyer, admitted doing so.

According to Hedges' testimony, Neuheisel told his boss that he left his family during a vacation at San Valley, Idaho, and traveled to San Francisco to play golf with friends.

By Feb. 10, one day after he discreetly interviewed with the 49ers, Hedges asked Neuheisel if he would pursue the job. She asked him to issue a statement through the school's sports information office denying his infidelity. He complied.

"I am very happy with my position and I am not interested in coaching anywhere else," said the news release, which was entered as trial evidence.

The statement also said Neuheisel was close to Donohue, who was his coach when he played college football at UCLA. "I consider him a mentor and a friend," Neuheisel wrote. "But we have never discussed the opening with the 49ers."

The truth came out Feb. 12, when a Seattle newspaper columnist reported he had overheard Neuheisel discussing the 49ers job on his cell phone days earlier as they walked to board a flight at the San Francisco airport.

That morning, Hedges met with Neuheisel, who stayed with his story about playing golf in San Francisco. They met again during the afternoon, and Hedges testified that when Neuheisel finally disclosed the truth.



Attorney John Aslin (above), representing the NCAA, addresses the jury during his opening statement on Monday. Former football coach Rick Neuheisel claims that NCAA administrators set him up and that University of Washington officials fired him wrongly.

"I was very angry with Rick Neuheisel," Hedges said. "He placed himself in jeopardy. He placed the department in jeopardy. It was just a very, very uncomfortable situation."

Before Peterson posed questions to Hedges, plaintiff's attorney Bob Sulkin asked her if Neuheisel had made a \$100,000 charity pledge to the athletic department during his tenure as coach. She confirmed it.

Sulkin then asked about a \$3,600 bet Neuheisel placed on horse-style pools for NCAA basketball. Sulkin wanted to know if Hedges considered that amount to be a lot of money for someone earning a \$1.5 million annual salary.

"It depends on how you're using your money," Hedges replied. "It's all about perspective."

history of lying and the legal standard for "reasonable doubt."

But prosecutors said bank and phone records bolstered the testimony of their lead witness, former Trezevant High School head coach Lynn Lang.

Lang testified that Young bribed him with a series of cash payments to get defensive lineman Albert Means to sign with Alabama in 2000.



Sally Anthony

Young, 64, was convicted of conspiracy to commit racketeering (by breaking federal bribery laws) and conspiracy to commit racketeering and arranging bank withdrawals to cover up a crime.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, but federal guidelines call for a lighter sentence.

Defense attorneys used closing arguments to highlight the chief accuser's

Anthony, an aspiring pop singer, and her husband and Rhythm co-owner Tony Bucher, did not respond to e-mail and fax messages seeking comment Tuesday.

The 911 caller told a dispatcher that Anthony had been hospitalized. Anthony was taken by ambulance to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she was treated for cuts on her arm and released Sunday. She was quoted in different reports as saying she feared and also that she was bitten by a dog.

The woman who called 911 did not immediately return a telephone message from the AP on Tuesday. A woman who identi-

Owners' revised salary cap offer rejected by union

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL's latest proposal to end the season-long lockout was rejected Wednesday by the players' union, which then came back with its own idea: Bring the commissioner to the bargaining table.

Bettman accepted, and is set to return the talks Thursday for the first time since Dec. 14. He'll meet with union head Bob Goodenow.

In turning down the league's offer, the union reiterated it won't accept a salary cap as a solution.

The league presented a written proposal with minor variations of concepts that were presented orally by the NHL last Thursday. "NHLPA senior director Ted Saksin said, 'We told the league last week and again today that their multilayered salary cap proposals were not the basis for an agreement.'"

The union suggested the sides meet on Thursday with Goodenow and Bettman in attendance.

The NHL proposed a six-year deal that contained a cap that would force teams to spend at least \$32 million on player costs but no more than \$42 million — including benefits. Both figures would be adjusted each year to reflect changes in league revenues.

Bettman has promised the 30 NHL teams that he will get them cost certainty, a direct link between league revenues and player costs. The NHL's offer Wednesday would have given the players between \$3 and 55 percent of league revenues.

Devises sign agreement to build arena in Newark

NEWARK, N.J. — After more than six years of aborted plans and on-again, off-again negotiations, city officials and the New Jersey Devils signed an agreement Wednesday to build an 18,000-seat arena that is scheduled to be completed in time for the start of the 2007-2008 NHL season.

Calling it "one of the greatest days in the history of New Jersey's largest city," Mayor Sharpe James put his signature on the agreement with Devils owner Ken Kaminsky. The arena, which cost \$210 million, the team will pay \$100 million toward the cost of the arena and any cost overruns during the construction, Vanderbeek said.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late summer or early fall on the site just west of the city's central train station.

Man convicted of paying \$150,000 to Alabama recruit

By WOODY BAIRD

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A federal jury convicted millionaire businessman Logan Young on Wednesday of paying \$150,000 to get a top football recruit for Alabama.

The jury deliberated for about 5½ hours before returning the verdict.

Part owner of ABA team hospitalized after in-game firing

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Hours after storming the court and firing her coach, Nashville Rhythm part-owner Sally Anthony was rushed to a hospital following a 911 call by a relative who said she had tried to "hurt herself."

A relative called 911 about 6 a.m. EST Sunday to report that Anthony was hurting herself, according to a 911 transcript obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"My sister-in-law is in her apartment right now, and she has taken some pills and cut it with alcohol and taken scissors and cut up her arms," said the caller, who identified herself as Susan.

Hours earlier, Anthony marched onto the court in the third quarter of the Rhythm's 110-109 victory over Kansas City and demanded that coach Ashley McElhiney bench a player and then told the coach she was fired. Security guards had to escort Anthony off the court.

Anthony is one of three owners of Nashville's American Basketball Association franchise, which made McElhiney the first female coach of a men's professional team last May.

Anthony, an aspiring pop singer, and her husband and Rhythm co-owner Tony Bucher, did not respond to e-mail and fax messages seeking comment Tuesday.

The 911 caller told a dispatcher that Anthony had been hospitalized. Anthony was taken by ambulance to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she was treated for cuts on her arm and released Sunday. She was quoted in different reports as saying she feared and also that she was bitten by a dog.

The caller said she was a suicide attempt. The dispatcher asked the caller if she thought it was a suicide attempt.

The caller said, "I don't know if she really meant to kill herself. She definitely meant to hurt herself."

The 30-year-old Anthony was taken by ambulance to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she was treated for cuts on her arm and released Sunday. She was quoted in different reports as saying she feared and also that she was bitten by a dog.

He said the player will meet with detectives in West Des Moines, about a two-hour

drive from Iowa's campus. A police report estimated damage from last week's episode at about \$1,300, including a television, stereo, photographs and bedroom furniture.

"Effective immediately, Pierce Pierce has been dismissed from the basketball team," coach Steve Alford said in a statement. "I regret this step has become necessary, but Pierce has betrayed the trust we placed in him when he was given a second chance two years ago."

In 2002, Pierce was charged with third-grade sexual abuse. He later pleaded guilty to it and received a suspended sentence, but the case and the way in which it was handled by university administrators triggered two faculty-led inquiries.

Pierce, 35, who runs the team's website, has a 17.8-point average.

Cards GM Jockety gets three-year deal

ST. LOUIS — Cardinals General Manager Walt Jockety agreed Wednesday on a three-year contract, less than a month after manager Tony La Russa also accepted a new deal that runs through 2007.

Jockety, 53, who replaced Tony La Russa as major league coach's executive of the year in 2004, had been without a contract since Dec. 31. St. Louis is coming off its first World Series appearance since 1987.

He said the player will meet with detectives in West Des Moines, about a two-hour

Japan no-op teams gearing up for stretch run, AA tournaments

Yokota boys, Kinnick girls don't want to peak early

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The Yokota boys basketball team has more in common with the girls squad from Kinnick than just winning games at the American School in Japan on Wednesday night.

Both teams are trying to catch conference leaders that got off to quick starts this season while also attempting to time their peak for the Far East tournaments in February.

Yokota's boys improved to 4-2 in the Japan Basketball League and 6-2 in the Kanto Plain by beating ASIJ 55-45 to keep the pressure on Kinnick, which is 8-0 in both leagues and will host the Panthers on Feb. 17.

Yokota coach Paul Erti is hoping for a reversal of fortune from last season when the Panthers peaked with an 11-game winning streak last January, only to tumble in February.

"We tried to learn from our mistakes. We want to peak in the third week of February, instead of the third week of January," Erti said of the Class AA tournament Feb. 21-26 at Kadena High School on Okinawa.

Cameron Cooper led the Panthers with 30 points, including four three-pointers, against the Mustangs.

"They work really hard. They've got good chemistry. There's no big star," he said. "Instead of one guy getting 30, we have three getting 15 most games. We have pretty good balance."

Kinnick's girls share a late-season swoon in 2004 with Yokota's boys. They went unbeaten in the regular season, winning the JBL and Kanto titles before fading to fifth place at Far East.

Kinnick coach Henry Falk knew he had an experienced starting five at the start of the season, but it's the team's improving bench that gives him hope for a better Far East finish this year.

"As the weeks go by, we get much more help from the bench," Falk said. "Lungu and Lundy netted 14 points and Tomika Lynce added 11 points, seven rebounds and five steals in Wednesday's victory."

Rather than peaking too early, Falk thinks the best is yet to come, with the Class AA tournament Feb. 21-26 at Seoul American the big goal.

"We're still improving and we still have a lot more to go," he said. "We still haven't peaked yet."

The Red Devils looked good Wednesday, using a pressure defense to overwhelm ASIJ 50-26 to give the front-running Yokota girls reason to be wary, especially with Panthers coach Ric Cabral scouting the game.

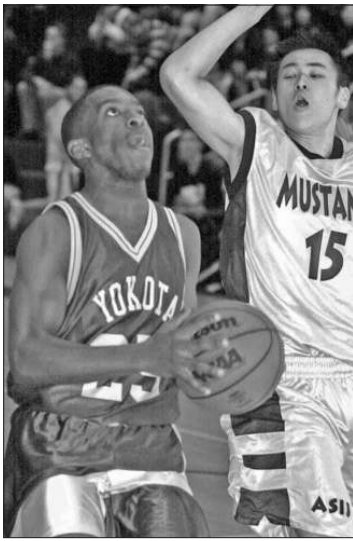
Cabral's club won its first 14 games before losing 54-42 last Saturday at Seisen International. Cabral cited that as an example of other teams stepping up their game as the season wears on.

"In the second half of the season, teams have picked up their game, honed their skills and they find they're a lot more aggressive," Cabral said.

That raises the question as to whether the loss to Seisen is a sign that Yokota's girls could follow the example set last season by the Yokota boys and Kinnick girls.

"It's very tough to climb a second peak," Cabral said. "We have to take it to another level. Everybody's gunning for Yokota. Now that Seisen has beaten us, that gives everybody else more confidence."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauer@strips.es.osd.mil



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Yokota Panthers guard Cameron Cooper drives for two of his 30 points as American School in Japan Mustangs guard Tatsuya Izumi defends during Wednesday's game in Tokyo. Yokota won 55-45.

For Pacific servicemembers, it's Super Bowl Monday

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Professional football's premier event comes with a slight twist for Pacific servicemembers.

Try eggs, bacon and java, in addition to the standard fare of ribs, potato salad and cold beverages. And how about a kickoff just after dawn, instead of sunset?

Welcome to Super Bowl Monday, a bit of a departure from the national spectacle that falls on Sunday in the States. The defending champion New England Patriots take on the Philadelphia Eagles at Jacksonville, Fla., with kickoff at 8:30 a.m. Japan and Korea time.

There'll be no shortage of viewing options of Super Bowl XXXIX, American Forces Radio and Television Service has the game covered wall-to-wall. Nine hours of pre-game, followed by the game itself, then post-game, could last 14 hours or more.

Clubs, community centers, even exchange food courts from Misawa, Japan, and Hagibaru, Guam, are offering plenty of dining options, albeit with a bit of breakfast flair.

And for three Japan bases, some special guests — cheerleaders from three NFL teams — will spice up the occasion.

The main difference between enjoying the big game here and in the United States is the date: Mon-

day. Though virtually all of America has a chunk out of its Sunday to view the Super Bowl, it takes place on what's normally a work day for Pacific bases.

"From a historical standpoint, individual commanding officers have allowed varying degrees of leeway," said Mike Chase, a Yokosuka Naval Base spokesman.

That leeway permits lower-tier commands and section supervisors to "in some cases allow troops to watch the Super Bowl that Monday morning, even if it's not a national holiday," Chase said.

Regardless, the game translates into big business for base clubs, which open their doors an hour or two before the contest and serve wide-ranging fare, from breakfast to lunch specials to snacks. The parties and food are available either for free or a nominal fee, depending on location.

Contests and giveaways dot the morning, with prizes ranging from trinkets like T-shirts and caps to wide-screen televisions and round-trip airline tickets.

Most bases serve non-alcoholic beverages, and on bases with venues that don't, commanders urge servicemembers to drink responsibly, Chase said.

Most commanders have had a policy that if you're going to drink responsibly during the game, to go ahead and take leave for that day," Chase said.

While pads will crack by the light of day, cutting all the pre-game action requires staying up all night or taking a nap early Sunday evening and ensuring alarm clock and coffee pot are functional.

FOX, this year's Super Bowl rights holder in the United States, begins its pregame coverage at 11 p.m. Sunday. AFN's Pacific, Korea and Atlantic channels carry the bulk of pre-game activities.

The once-a-year slice of NFL Americana comes with a special glitz at Yokosuka, Camp Zama and Misawa Air Base in Japan, where members of the Oakland Raiders, Miami Dolphins and St. Louis Rams cheerleaders will be on hand to greet, sign autographs and perform for the troops.

It's a departure from past years, when former Super Bowl heroes such as Dwight Hicks, Billy Kilmer, Earl Morrall and Ken Stabler ventured overseas to watch the game with the troops. Players or cheerleaders, it's still "a big morale booster," Chase said.

Such luminaries "who volunteer their time to watch the Super Bowl with the troops have all been huge boosters of the troops, without exception," he said. "And they let them know how much they appreciate their service to the country. To many of the football heroes, they (troops) are heroes."

Japan Super Bowl events

Sasebo Naval Base: Harbor View Club's upper and lower Sakata Rooms offer viewing on a large movie screen. Breakfast buffet for \$9.95, hot dogs for \$2. Surprises planned. Phone DSN 253-3965.

Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station: Club Iwakuni's Super Bowl Blowout opens at 5:30 a.m. to all ranks in the Landing Zone Lounge and Ballroom. Free breakfast of eggs, biscuits, gravy, bacon and sausage. Free submarine sandwiches offered at half-price. Labeled quick rib, baked beans, corn on the cob and potato salad or wings by the dozen for \$5.95 during the game's second half. Giveaways include T-shirts, cooler bags, miniature footballs, caps, bottle warmers and key chains. Phone DSN 253-5416. Horner's Nest party sponsored by the Single Marine Program opens at 7 a.m. Big-screen TV and free snacks. Phone DSN 253-3585.

Atsugi Naval Air Facility: Club Trilobyte opens at 7 a.m. to all ranks. Large-screen TV with surround sound. Free country barbecue and barbecue ribs. Various contests with giveaways of thousands of dollars of various prizes. Videotaped replay at 6 p.m. at the Off-sides Bar for adults only. Phone DSN 264-3574.

Yokosuka Naval Base: Various parties at Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities throughout the base. Oakland Raiders cheerleaders are to meet and greet fans at the Officers' Club during the pre-game show, Chief Petty Officers' Club during the first quarter, Seaside Airfield Club during the second quarter and ballroom, Club Alliance during the third quarter and the Spectrum Single Sailors Lounge in the Fleet Recreation Center during the fourth quarter. Phone DSN 253-3215.

Misawa Air Base: Tokoku Enlisted and Mutsu Officers clubs open at 6 a.m. Free for members \$10 for non-members. Live concert at 8 p.m. on big-screen TV in the Tokoku Ballroom, sports bar and Kanpal Lounge. Breakfast buffet served until halftime, sandwiches and snacks until game's end. Trivia contests, prizes, giveaways. Special appearance by St. Louis Rams cheerleaders. Party for unaccompanied servicemembers, sponsored by Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Air Force Services at Mokutsu Community Center Ballroom, opens at 7 a.m. Viewing on large movie screen. Free food, prizes and giveaways, including Air Force Services and PX gift certificates. Phone DSN 225-9516 or 225-4128.

Camp Zama: Community Club opens at 7 a.m. Adults only. Free breakfast buffet and snacks. Free T-shirts for first 50 through the door. Door prizes include round-trip airline tickets, digital cameras, sports gear, tickets to American Bowl pre-season game Aug. 5 at Tokyo Dome, incliner and coupons for off-base eateries. Special appearance by Miami Dolphins cheerleaders. Phone DSN 267-5995.

Camp Fike: Roadhouse Club opens at 9 a.m. to all ranks. Viewing on one giant screen, three big-screen TVs and 15 monitors. Free brunch-type buffet until 11 a.m. Giveaways throughout game. Pool tournament from 8 to 9 a.m. Members only. Breakfast buffet for \$3. Games and giveaways, including grand prize of 37-inch flat-screen TV. Enlisted Club opens at 6:30 a.m. Free for members \$7.95 for non-members and snacks. Adults only. Free steak-and-egg breakfast. Beverage specials, pick-a-square game and door prizes. Free grand prize drawing. Free live entertainment. Free live screen TV and guitar. Only club members eligible for prizes. Phone DSN 225-3368.

Guam Super Bowl events

Big Navy: Naval Base Guam club doors open at 6 a.m. Viewing on wide-screen TV and 15 small monitors. Adults 21 and older. Air-yan-can-eat breakfast buffet for \$9.95 until 9 a.m. Lunch special available 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$2.95 each \$2.99. Includes breakfast, lunch, four beverage coupons and special servers. Contests and giveaways including free diving tools, hotel gift packs, free movie from local restaurants and grand prize of two round-trip tickets and lodging in Tokyo for the American Bowl pre-season game Aug. 6 at Tokyo Dome. Phone DSN 139-4153 or commercial (671) 964-1851.

Anderson Air Force Base: Oceania Conference Center and Top of the Rock Club Football Frezzy parties open at 6 a.m. Wide-screen TV's at both locations. \$10 per person. Breakfast buffet, t-shirt-type buffet at ballroom. Phone DSN 366-6666.

Reports claim Smith retiring on Thursday

Career rushing leader elusive about plans

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader and a three-time Super Bowl winner with the Dallas Cowboys, was expected to announce his retirement Thursday, according to media reports.

Smith, a free agent who played the last two seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, will make the announcement three days before the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., according to the reports Tuesday.

The 35-year-old running back, who holds the NFL records for most rushing yards and most rushing touchdowns, was as elusive about his plans as he was on the field.

"Did you see my year last year? Do you think I'm ready to retire?" he told the Dallas Morning News for a story posted Tuesday on its Web site.

ESPN.com and the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram also reported Tuesday that Smith would retire. ESPN.com cited "confidants" of the star running back that it did not identify; both newspapers cited unidentified sources.

An eight-time Pro Bowler and the league's most valuable player in 1993, Smith holds the career rushing touchdown record with 115. He has 18,355 yards and 164 TDs overall.

Smith played 13 years in Dallas. He said Monday that he wanted to retire as a member of the Cowboys.

Reliable and durable despite carrying a heavy load year after year, Smith broke Walter Payton's rushing record with the Cowboys in 2002 but signed with Arizona the next season as an unrestricted free agent. His first year with the Cardinals in 2003 proved frustrating. For the first time in



Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader has rushed for 18,355 yards in 15 seasons, including 937 last season with the Arizona Cardinals.

his career, an injury sidelined him for a significant period and he struggled to gain yards when healthy enough to play.

But he bounced back this season, rushing for 937 yards and nine touchdowns for the Cardinals, who — despite their 6-10 record — showed signs of improvement under new head coach Dennis Green.

Neither the Cardinals nor Cowboys had any announcements planned regarding Smith.

Suratin gets Miami's approval to seek trade

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Miami Dolphins cornerback Patrick Suratin has received permission to seek a trade because the team is pessimistic about reaching agreement on a contract extension, his agent said.

Suratin, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, could cost the Dolphins more than \$8.3 million against the salary cap in 2005, the final year of his contract. The team has until March 2 to cut \$17 million in payroll and can save a little more than \$6 million by trading Suratin.

Agent Gary Ubertine worked for two years on a contract extension. With talks at an impasse, Ubertine said he received approval Monday from Dolphins General Manager Rick Spielman to pursue a trade.

"We're going to direct our energy and focus to trying to arrange a trade," Ubertine said.

The Dolphins and new coach Nick Saban declined to comment Wednesday. Saban earlier acknowledged he'll face difficult decisions because of the salary cap situation he inherited.

Suratin was selected to the Pro Bowl in 2002 and 2003. He was chosen as an injury substitute this

NFL briefs
season, but with the possibility of a trade, he pulled out of the game as a precaution.

In the past five seasons, Suratin has 25 interceptions, the most of any NFL cornerback. His durability has been questioned because of persistent knee trouble, but he has missed just four games in the past four seasons.

Suratin and Sam Madison have been among the NFL's best cornerback tandems in recent years. Saban is apparently willing to trade Suratin because Miami has at least two potential replacements on the roster: veteran Reggie Howard and Will Poole, who played well last season as a rookie.

Bruschi going to Pro Bowl

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — New England Patriots linebacker Brett Bruschi on Tuesday was added to the Pro Bowl roster for the first time, replacing injured Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis.

Bruschi is the fifth Patriots player on the AFC roster, joining Tom Brady, Larry Izzo, Richard Seymour and Adam Vinatieri for the Feb. 13 game in Hawaii.

Driver creates stir with comments on Favre's future

By TOM SILVERSTEIN
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Perhaps the biggest stir made on Super Bowl XXXIX media day came a mile away from where the Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots gathered for interviews.

Green Bay Packers wide receiver Donald Driver told interviewers during a trip through radio row at the Super Bowl media center that he thinks quarterback Brett Favre is going to retire. Driver, in town for a charity event benefiting area schools, created quite a buzz with his comments.



Favre

a news conference to announce Favre's retirement and was investigating its legitimacy.

When asked about Favre's possible retirement, Driver told Sir-

Almost as quickly as the words were out of Driver's mouth, word spread that Favre was going to retire. One radio station had heard the Packers were calling

us NFL radio, "Everyone has been asking me that question. He's a real close friend of mine, and we've been talking back and forth, and I think he's pretty much going to hang 'em up."

Asked if he thought Favre had made up his mind, Driver said, "I think so. I think he was trying to wait until the draft, and I think coach (Mike) Sherman wanted to know right before free agency because there's a couple of quarterback free agents that they want to look at if Brett decided not to come back."

"I think they forced him to make a decision. When you force one of the greatest quarterbacks in the NFL to make a decision,

he's pretty much going to let you know that he may be just hanging 'em up."

Shortly after Sirius e-mailed Driver's comments to reporters around the country, the Packers issued a statement saying nothing had changed regarding Favre's status. They said he has not informed the Packers of his decision whether to return for the 2005 season.

Favre's agent, James (Bus) Cook, was unavailable for comment.

In an interview later in the day, Driver stood by his comments that he thought Favre would retire, but he said he had no direct knowledge of Favre's intentions

and had not spoken to the Packers' quarterback since shortly after the season had ended with a 31-17 playoff loss to Minnesota on Jan. 9.

A source close to Driver confirmed that he had not received any recent indication from Favre regarding his future.

Nevertheless, Driver wasn't backing down from his feeling that 2004 was Favre's last season in the National Football League. He said he and Favre talked about different things several days after the Vikings loss and his gut feeling was that the 35-year-old Favre wasn't going to return for a 15th season.

Painful: More than one doctor thinks Eagles' Owens should sit

PAINFUL, FROM BACK PAGE

Part of the testimony in the trial deal with the fact that Novak, worried about his future with the team, felt pressure to play. The defendants said Novak didn't want the injury the way he should have.

While Owens doesn't seem to be encountering any pressure from the Eagles to take the field, he talks as though he will be the only arbiter of his fate Sunday.

"God brought me here for a reason. I put me here, now who he is and how powerful he is," he said.

But there's a big difference between prayer and hard science, and Owens' own personal physician, Mark Myerson, isn't the only doctor who thinks the receiver should sit this one out.

"I think the guy's out of his

mind," said Ken Wong, a family physician in Bakersfield, Calif. "That's a serious injury and what he doesn't realize is that if he doesn't allow the healing process to take place, there could be a lot more trouble."

Willis Reed, Jack Youngblood, Curt Schilling. Those men are the authors of heroic comeback stories everyone has heard.

Novak, Terrell Davis. Curt Marsh. They are the subjects of cautionary tales about guys who rushed back and paid a big price.

Davis tried to return quickly from knee injury and regretted it, saying it hastened the end of his career.

Marsh, a lineman for the Oakland Raiders, pushed through with a broken ankle in the 1980s. He won a Super Bowl ring — "a nice bauble," he called it in an interview with Newsday.

He would trade it, though, he said, if he could have his foot back. Unable to stand the pain after 12 unsuccessful surgeries, surgery No. 13 was the one where doctors amputated the foot.

If Owens plays Sunday, there's a good chance things will turn out fine. There's a chance of a gruesome injury. There's also a chance that he could do damage that nobody will know about for a year, or three, or 10 years. "You've got short-term risks, like one of the screws bending, and you've got long-term risks, the kind of things you won't know about until much later," said Freddie Fu, a surgeon at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. "If you want it to heal perfectly, logically you need more time. But if you feel like this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, well, then maybe you take the chance."

There are financial issues to take into account, although they're not as extreme as one might think.

The only guaranteed money in the NFL comes from the signing bonus, and Owens earned \$10 million when he signed his seven-year deal with the Eagles last offseason. He's scheduled to make \$32 million in base salary over the next six years. That contract, however, would likely be reworked after 2006, at which point Owens would be an 11-year veteran.

Add all up and it means he would realistically be leaving about \$4 million on the table if Sunday is his last game. That's less than 20 percent of what he has earned to now.

Regardless of whether it's a lot or a little money, any doctor who clears him to play would be putting himself at risk of a lawsuit if

Owens is injured further. Ask the guy Novak used. He's in private practice now, having not quite turned his contract with the Jaguars into the cash cow many doctors who associate themselves with NFL teams hope for.

Love football, but never be a Super Bowl football team," Wong said. "Coaches want them to play. Owners want them to play. I just wouldn't want to get involved in the medical-legal aspects of that."

To hear him tell it, this isn't about the money for Owens. All he really wants out of this week is a Super Bowl ring — that "nice bauble" every professional player covets but few really get.

"This is what you go for training camp for. This is why you go through all the hell, the sweat and tears. This game is the pinnacle."

It doesn't get any better than this, Owens said.

SPORTS



Players' association rejects league's latest offer, which still included salary cap, Page 29

Sports' painful precedents

Eagles wide receiver Owens not first in going against doctors' orders

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Here's one story Terrell Owens has probably never heard: A little-known backup offensive lineman, his leg dripping with blood, played with doctors to be taken to the hospital.

No, the doctors said, it was time to board the airplane and fly back home.

Hours before that, Jacksonville Jaguars lineman Jeff Novak had played three quarters of an exhibition game on a steamy night in Charlotte, knowing he needed to be out on the field to try to save his job. As it turned out, that night would essentially mark the end of his NFL career.

At first blush, Novak's story doesn't appear to have much in common with that of Owens, superstar receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Except for this: By rushing his return from a broken ankle and playing in the Super Bowl on Sunday in the same stadium where Novak used to play, Owens risks bringing his career to a premature close, just like Novak did six seasons ago during that preseason game.

What price glory? Owens, who was at his bombastic best Tuesday in insisting he would be on the field come gametime, is only the latest in a long string of players to bring that question to the fore.

"If it were my son," said Andrew Kirschner, a doctor of osteopathic manual medicine, "I'd say 'Stay home. Tomorrow's another day.'"

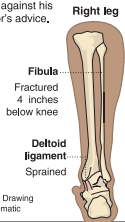
Of course, tomorrows on football's biggest stage are far from guaranteed for these players, many of whom play all their life for a chance win a Super Bowl, the way Owens can Sunday.

Owens knows the history.

The Eagles fell one victory short of the Super Bowl three

Owens' injury

Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens, who suffered a high ankle sprain and a fracture to the fibula in December, says he will play in Sunday's Super Bowl against his doctor's advice.



straight years before he got here. Then he came and the team got over the hump.

No matter that Philadelphia played the last four games without him, while he nursed the ankle he broke in a game Dec. 19. As everyone with the Eagles will admit, Owens was a big part of helping them get this far.

And hearing him Tuesday, it's clear he's not going to let a little injury, or his doctor's foreboding advice, keep him from taking center stage come Sunday.

"I'll be at 81 percent," said Owens, who wears No. 81.

"They've shown what they can do without me, now they'll show what they can do with me. The Eagle 8-1 is back!"

After he retired, Novak won \$2 million in a malpractice lawsuit settlement, claiming the Jaguars team doctor improperly treated a bone bruise that ugly night in Carolina, which led to infections that ended his career.

SEE PAINFUL ON PAGE 31



Philadelphia Eagles WR Terrell Owens, who suffered a severe ankle injury on Dec. 19, says he will play in the Super Bowl against his doctor's advice. "I'll be at 81 percent," Owens, who wears No. 81 said Tuesday.



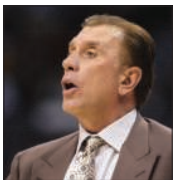
The bloody sock reflected the dedication of Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, who took the mound in the World Series with a dislocated ankle tendon held together by suture.



Former Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis (30), who was the MVP of Super Bowl XXXII and the NFL MVP the following season after rushing for 2,008 yards, says that rushing back from a knee injury prematurely shortened his career.

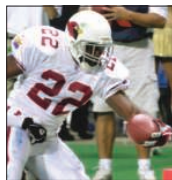
Lakers coach Tomjanovich resigns because of health concerns

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No. 1 Illinois, No. 5 BC remain unbeaten with victories over Michigan State, West Virginia

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Reports claim NFL's career rushing leader Emmitt Smith will retire on Thursday

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List of Super Bowl Monday events for Japan, Guam

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